

Case Study BRINGING LOCATION TO LIFE

Predicting and preventing fires using predictive analytics and the UPRN



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

For fire and rescue services everywhere, preventing a blaze is as important as tackling one. To do that, firefighters need access to systems and data that can help them identify risks to property - and people - and to better target vulnerable areas with fire-prevention education.

This involves bringing myriad data sources together. Addressing; property details; transport links; known hazards; arboricultural information, previous incidents and more.

Even an overlay of demographic data can be useful in helping the most vulnerable members of society to mitigate fire risk.

Data teams can use open data to understand family risk profiles and prioritise visits to homes or even schools where education in fire safety is needed.



London Fire Brigade's improvements in the data analytics space, using the UPRN, are helping to mitigate fire risk for the most vulnerable people and their properties

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In terms of analysing fires, predicting fire risks, and moving fire engines (not only to the scene of a fire but also from one station to another as a stand-by manoeuvre), the analysis of spatial data is essential. Specificity and ease of integration is assured by connecting datasets with the UPRN.



The London Fire Brigade's data analytics team handles the location data being collected and used by 33 boroughs, with 102 fire stations. The team's work involves liaising closely across internal departments and external agencies (such as local authorities and the Home Office); publishing and pulling in open data from other organisations as and when it's available.


One project that's now come to fruition is the creation of an All-Addresses Corporate Database (AACD). The AACD is a database that makes connections - using UPRNs as the unifier - between every piece of data known about each addressable point in London.

The team started by loading the addresses and UPRNs of all addressable points in the London area (using data sourced from AddressBase Premium), and adding information about the heights of buildings, using details from OS MasterMap. Demographic detail was added (using the MOSAIC information available from Experian); and cross-referenced against instances of accidental fires and fire engine mobilisations - using details collected by the fire brigade itself.

The team then wanted to add in the recorded Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) attributes of each property, but in its raw form, EPC data does not include a UPRN. GeoPlace undertook to match UPRNs to the EPC, providing a verified dataset that integrated seamlessly.

With the AACD in place, the London Fire Brigade can now model and forecast fire risk far more accurately, and develop visualisations for fire officers to access quickly and easily - with complete confidence in the locations they're seeing.

However, the different metrics involved correlated to fire risk in different ways. Meaningful predictions, for example, did not use building height data. For some analysis, information contained within the EPC turned out to be by far the most important - and in turn, this work has led to analysis that shows which datasets to interrogate and develop further.

A photograph of a cityscape at dusk or night, with several location pins overlaid on the image, connected by a network of lines, symbolizing spatial data analysis.

The analysis of spatial data is essential for directing emergency services to the scene of an ongoing incident - but precise location is also vital in terms of analysing and predicting risks; minimising risk to property, and preserving life...

We are GeoPlace

Bringing location to life

We are GeoPlace, the team managing a central hub of around 44 million addresses and over 1.39 million streets in the UK.

We take feeds of address and street data from local authorities in England and Wales, central government, Ordnance Survey and Royal Mail. We also take data from Scotland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands via the Improvement Service, Land & Property Services, Isle of Man Government and Digimap respectively.

This data goes through a rigorous validation process, which includes 364 Address data checks and 550 Street data checks, before being accepted into the National Street Gazetteer and National Address Gazetteer.

Overall, we update around 2 million records every month. The information in our database is also enriched with attributes from other datasets to enhance detail and quality - it's an ongoing process of co-operation and collaboration.

The end result is a unified, authoritative source for all addressing and street data in the UK.

Our Gazetteers are prized and respected national assets. They make it easier for central and local government, commerce, organisations and individuals to access Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRNs) and Unique Street Reference Numbers (USRNs) with confidence.



GeoPlace is a public sector limited liability partnership between the Local Government Association and Ordnance Survey



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