



“That will be a \$25,000 Fine and Four Years Probation”

As the judge’s gavel SLAMS down in a Columbus, OH court room. This was the painful truth for the owner of a commercial tire shop that was caught dumping used tires recently. A FlashCAM-880 was used in a sting operation. In return for changing the offense from criminal to a civil action, the tire shop defendant identified four haulers who were also involved in dumping. It turns out that only ten scrap tire haulers are licensed in the state of Ohio. If you are not one of them, you break the law if you have over four scrap tires in your truck.

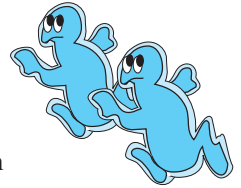
Columbus has 5 FlashCAM systems. Four are used for graffiti applications and one is dedicated to quell illegal trash dumping. Anthony Fanin, Solid Waste Inspector, works with the Keep Columbus Beautiful office. He reports good results from his program. A typical operation is to cleanup a known dumping area, then install a FlashCAM-880. Within days he will get pictures of dumpers. He turns the pictures over to a deputy who then calls on the perpetrator. Typically the end result for individual dumpers is a \$750 to \$1,000 fine, 40 hours of community service, and two years probation. And here is a new twist; while the perpetrator is on probation he is also assigned the responsibility for keeping the site where he dumped clean. If any large items are dumped there he must pay to get them hauled away.

The fines collected for illegal dumping go into a general fund that is dedicated to trash clean up. Some of the funds pay for overtime, tipping charges and other costs involved in an every two-week cleanup program. Anthony goes by the court house and picks up a crew of eight people who have been assigned to do community service. He puts them to work cleaning up trash. Additionally some of the fine money is used to buy equipment and supplies. In Anthony’s case the major equipment costs aside from the FlashCAM-880 is an extension ladder that he uses to install or move the cameras. Many of our public works customers use lift trucks for this purpose, but Anthony says the ladder and a pickup truck works just fine and keeps his operating costs down. ▲

Huge Water District Makes Good Use of FlashCAM Systems

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) supplies water and provides wastewater treatment for approximately 1.3 million people in a 325-square-mile area on the eastern side of the San Francisco Bay.

EBMUD recently installed six FlashCAM-880s at its sprawling complex of reservoirs and dams. The two main applications are to deter graffiti and copper theft. At reservoir sites they have photos of night time visitors coming onto the site and then leaving without spraying any graffiti. At a power house site the FlashCAM was installed to deter copper theft. Again they have photos of people within the fenced compound who left after the system flashed and issued a voice warning. Previously “live” buried copper cables had been pulled from the site.



EBMUD also had graffiti problems at a large billboard with an ad that promotes water conservation. A FlashCAM was installed recently. Early results appear to be successful. (Q-Star has an excellent history of deterring graffiti on billboards.)

Portability is the key to these applications. Solar power, rugged construction and no wiring required plus WIFI picture download makes the FlashCAM-880 a cost effective and flexible tool. ▲

Customer Pleased with Q-Star Service & Support

Farmers Branch, TX is a small town (population 25,000) a few miles northwest of Dallas. They don’t have major problems like larger cities but still must battle the issues of graffiti and vandalism. Recently they installed a FlashCAM-880 at their worst site for graffiti, but the problem persisted. So the Q-Star field rep came in and helped them re-locate the camera system and provided training on the best tactics to use for their environment. Since then the location has been totally graffiti-free. Sgt. Eric Stokes commented that he wished all their vendors provided such outstanding customer support. His next mission is to get another FlashCAM-880 plus some dummy systems in his budget. ▲

Q-Star Continues to Grow to Meet Customer Needs

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Curt Noel, Account Executive for the state of Colorado. Curt is based in Colorado Springs, CO and can be reached at:
Tel. (719) 237-4298
Email: cnoel@qstartech.com



Glendale, Arizona on Quest to Protect Its Turf

In early February the New England Patriots entered the University of Phoenix Stadium located in Glendale, Arizona. They were planning on winning. After all they were the best team in the history of the NFL with 18 straight wins. They were big and tough and skilled. So they oozed confidence that they would beat the New York Giants, a lowly wild card winner team. But it turned out that heart trumped strength and the Giants went home a winner in what will likely go down in history as the best Super Bowl ever.

Meanwhile 2 miles East of the stadium another underdog was winning. *“Stop! It is illegal to spray graffiti here. We have taken your picture and will prosecute you. Leave now”!* The FlashCAM-880 was chalking up another win by stopping a graffiti incident as part of a test program initiated by the city of Glendale.

Glendale, Arizona is fast becoming the sports center of the West. All the more reason to wage a war against graffiti in this high-profile city. It is home of the Arizona Cardinals NFL football team, hosts the Fiesta bowl every 4 years, and has training camps for five major league baseball teams. Six major hotels opened in 2007. The town is booming! So keeping the city safe and clean is a top priority for city officials.

Glendale is a prime example of Q-Star’s philosophy that the most successful graffiti abatement programs starts with a political will. This is certainly the case in Glendale. City council member Joyce Clark is a hands-on administrator. Not only did she directly negotiate the contract with Q-Star but she also personally goes out with her laptop and downloads pictures from the FlashCAM-880. She is managing the test program to measure both the effectiveness and the cost-effectiveness of the FlashCAM-880 solution. Based on information from this test the city will decide when and where to expand their program in their fight against graffiti. ▲

The FlashCAM Puts Minds at Ease

Kristina Kaunzinger, Dinuba, CA, says the FlashCAM works so well, they sometimes forget it’s even there! Since they installed it at their skate board park several months ago there has been no graffiti or vandalism. In fact they have not even downloaded any pictures so the on-going cost of operation is zero. This is FlashCAM at its best! ▲

FlashCAM On “The Golf Island”

Fore! Approximately one million rounds of golf are played each year on Hilton Head Island, SC, most of these are by golfers who have not yet broken 100. Known as The Golf Island, Hilton Head, and the near by area, offers more than 20 public or semi-private golf courses with public access for visiting golfers. An estimated one-third of all visitors choose Hilton Head strictly for the golf. So keeping Hilton Head spiffy and free from vandalism and graffiti is an important job.

The Beaufort County Sheriff’s department has the contract to supply law enforcement for the island. They recently purchased the FlashCAM-880 as a general purpose deterrent and law enforcement tool. It is being used not only to deter graffiti but also to stop vandalism to vending machines at a local mall. In addition the system has effectively stopped thieves from taking entire newspaper racks. Thieves would haul the racks to a safe place then break in to get the money.

According to Captain Toby McSwain, they move the FlashCAM frequently. They leave it in the armed condition so it is on guard 24 hours a day. Patrol officers drive by with a laptop every two days to download pictures. They have their own scissor lift and the deputies that move the system are outfitted in mechanics-type uniforms complete with hard hats so they look like utility workers. Having their own equipment gives the deputies the ability to rapidly respond to new locations as problem areas pop up. Based on their experience so far they plan to expand their FlashCAM-880 program. ▲

Something We Take for Granted

I forgot to think about water this morning. I just turned on the faucet and there it was. But the infrastructure and people involved in making sure that clean drinking water is always available is pretty significant for any city. The city of Garden Grove, CA is no exception. This town of 169,000 residents has 360 miles of water lines and 12 wells with a pumping capacity of 35,000 gallons per minute. In addition some water is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District. This water comes from either the Colorado River, 300 miles to the east or Northern California, 400 miles north. It is amazing it all works every day.



Protection of two 150 pound chlorine tanks plus a propane tank that fuels a backup pump at the water reservoir in the city of Garden Grove prompted the city to install a FlashCAM-880. The FlashCAM system immediately stopped unauthorized visits. Tim Cannon reports, “Now there are no graffiti incidents or trash dumping or skate boarding problems.” This is good news as it eliminates the cost of weekly clean up.

The FlashCAM-880 is a good solution to reduce vandalism and nuisance problems and liability exposure for water companies. Typically facilities are located in remote areas so the system’s solar power is key. In addition the structures and equipment are critical for something we take for granted—reliable water service. ▲