



When time is money and safety is paramount

Evans & Son Blacktop, Inc., west Chicago, Illinois

"When there are potential lightning issues, we'll check WeatherSentry Online Construction Edition to see if it's a real concern. If it is, we'll get our crews off the job."

Evans & Son Blacktop

Established in 1972, Evans & Son Blacktop

has earned a reputation as west Chicago's premier asphalt paving contractor. The company has 30 employees and more than two dozen trucks. Its customers include home builders, park districts, and condominium associations. It paves 5,000 driveways a year and provides asphalt for tennis courts, parking lots, and driveway maintenance throughout the area.

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"If it's raining in the morning, WeatherSentry Online Construction Edition helps us know if it's going to stop soon. Are we going to be able to work, and if so, do we need to go north or south?"

Evans & Son Blacktop

What they were up against.

For Evans & Son, having up-to-date weather information is critical for protecting not only its profits, but also its people. Severe weather like thunderstorms poses a deadly threat to workers if they're outside when lightning strikes. And deciding whether or not to send crews outside can have a serious impact on the company's bottom line. What the company needed was reliable, accurate weather information it could depend on.

What we did to help.

Evans & Son uses DTN's WeatherSentry Online® Construction Edition for its weather intelligence needs. With this flexible system it can get the precise real-time weather information it needs—from any computer in the world—so it can make the best operational decisions possible.

What the impact was.

Evans & Son often loads thousands of dollars worth of materials into its trucks at once; these materials are perishable, so if they're not used in a few hours, they're wasted. Having up-to-date forecasts allows the company to schedule work around inclement weather, preventing it from losing money on costly materials.

Having accurate forecasts also means Evans & Son can give its workers advance notice of weather delays, saving itself from having to pay show-up costs if no work can be done.

The up-to-the-minute lightning forecasts are also critical to worker safety. Crews regularly use steel-wheeled rollers when laying fresh asphalt, making them especially vulnerable to lightning strikes. But with WeatherSentry, Evans & Son can easily see if lightning is getting too close for comfort and pull crews off the job, making sure everyone stays safe and out of harm's way.