



Using 1MARK™ to put field measurements and record drawings in the hands of field staff

by the Staff at 1MARK™

This is the fourth in a series of articles describing how Authorities can use 1MARK™ to easily and affordably connect its front office to its field staff for a seamless flow information that is now possible with cloud technology.

Our series of articles so far have introduced you to 1MARK™, shown you how it can assist Authorities to comply with the PUC's new Section called "PA1Call Enforcement," and shown you how cloud computing and Google® Maps can put your GIS mapping in the hands of your field staff easily and affordably. This article expands on 1MARK's function of connecting the office to the field by describing how field measurements and record drawings can become mobile and placed right at the fingertips of your people in the field, where they need it the most.

Field Measurements and Record Drawings

Every Authority has documentation of its system in the form of field measurements. From water curb boxes to sanitary sewer manholes, field measurements for these features abound in just about every conceivable format.

Whether an Authority is using paper drawings, digital images, or a combination of both, this information is vital for any system to operate properly. Wastewater systems generally incorporate some of this information into its GIS mapping, while water systems tend to have more handwritten documents and drawings. However, a common problem that both systems share is getting this vital information into the hands of the staff in the field.

While Record Drawings are usually available as digital documents or can easily be converted to digital documents by scanning them into a PDF format, they are generally located in the office. Therefore, this poses the same problem--namely, this vital information is not readily available to the staff in the field.



Leverage your GIS Investment:

- NO Annual Support Cost
- NO per seat License
- Overlay One Call Dig Site on your GIS data
- Clear Tickets in the Field
- Document Markings with Photos
- View Service Cards in the Field

Using 1MARK and the Cloud

The Cloud is the engine that allows for storage and compression of large quantities of data to be served up to the field staff at lightning fast speeds with minimal data requirements. 1MARK uses this engine to manage the thousands of files that are normally associated with a utility's records for the field.

1MARK's base package gives users the ability to put their GIS mapping into the hands of field staff by uploading shapefiles that are superimposed onto Google® Maps or their preferred ortho background mapping. The PDF Viewer service available in 1MARK's premium package takes this concept a step further by including all of your geolocated measurements and record drawings. As a result, with just once click of the icon on their mobile device, users can now access any measurement or drawing they need for utility location.

Digital Images Already

Some systems have already taken the leap and converted their field measurements and/or record drawings into a digital format but struggle with an effective way to use this information in the field. 1MARK has helped many Authorities take the next step by putting this information to work in the field where its needed.

This next step usually begins with geolocating the information (assigning a latitude and longitude) so that it can be spatially located on a map. The staff at 1MARK has developed many new tools to aid in this process. Therefore, what used to consume months of labor now can be done in a few hours after a cross-reference key is developed from either a utility's customer database or from their GIS information. For those with geolocated information already in their GIS system, this information can be easily extracted and uploaded into 1MARK for use in the field.

Still Using Paper

For those Authorities with paper records, the good news is that converting to digital is getting easier and cheaper. (However, of note is that many Authorities that do make this jump to digital still desire to maintain their paper records).

1MARK teams with scanning professionals that can tackle just about any paper scanning project on-site. While, of course, each scanning project is unique depending on the quantity and quality of paper, it is typical for personnel to visit a site and complete all the scanning in less than one week. This means that your vital records never have to leave your site.

Records are then geo-located and uploaded for viewing through the PDF viewer.

After the on-site scanning phase, utilities can opt to have key information (e.g., lead goosenecks or galvanized piping) transferred from the paper scan into a database so this information can be used for planning or regulatory compliance requirements.

Keeping Field Measurement Current

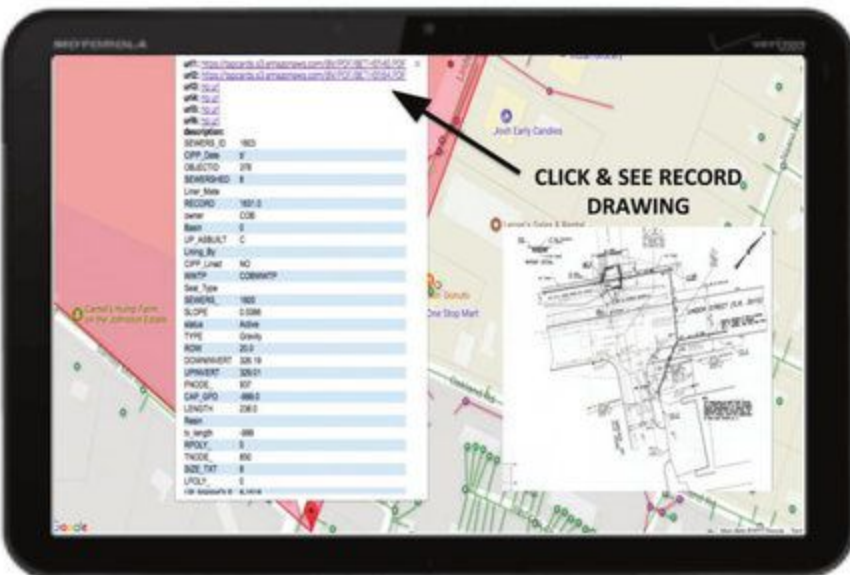
Of course, keeping field measurements current for changing conditions in the field is always a major priority for any utility. After the initial upload of your PDF scans (done by the 1MARK staff), keeping your field measurements current to the field staff has been made easy by using our built-in-tools. These tools allow you, or your engineer, to run simple batch files that automatically upload new measurements whenever they are needed.

Our next installment of articles will describe how 1MARK's Tracker Module connects the office to the field for management and staff notification for investigations, leaks and customers' complaints.

About 1MARK™

An endorsed member program that provides Authorities a low-cost, monthly subscription option to connect the front office with the staff in the field for a seamless flow of information accessible on any web browser, tablet or smartphone.

This web-based software platform processes and manages PA1 Call Tickets, includes a complete work order system tailored to the water and wastewater industry and provides a solution for transmitting all of your important geo-located information to field staff superimposed onto Google® Maps for viewing of your GIS mapping, field measurements and all of your Record Drawings.



For more information about 1MARK™, or to arrange a demonstration of the program, please visit PMAA's website and find us under the Endorsed Member Programs section.



What PMAA Members Are Saying About 1MARK™



In October of 2017 the Bethlehem Township Municipal Authority converted to the web-based 1MARK™ system for all its PA 1 Call ticket processing. Our area of responsibility for Bethlehem Township PA includes; public sanitary sewer, stormsewer, traffic controls, and lighting. Being able to provide our field staff with the integration of our ESRI® GIS mapping through the use of shape files and Google® Maps, the one stop shop approach enhances operations by providing locators with immediate utility location, as well as access to record plans. Staff can now easily navigate mapping and tickets on any cellular device in the field and on demand. Converting to 1MARK™ and training was completed in literally a few hours, was incredibly simple and immediate. In a world where software companies promise easy solutions and almost seem to never deliver, the 1MARK's system literally is on the "mark"!

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