



DISASTER RECOVERY – USA MOBILITY BENEFITS

In recent disaster recovery situations, such as the Gulf Coast Hurricanes and 9-11, USA Mobility's network has proven to be very effective and reliable when other communication methods, including cell phones and 2way radios, failed totally or did not provide optimum performance. Two-way messaging, in use by certain emergency response personnel in New Orleans immediately following Katrina last fall, was found to be more reliable during this disaster than other forms of communication.

Among other reasons, following are four key features of USA Mobility's networks that make this technology more desirable for government and emergency response personnel

1. Network Redundancy

USA Mobility's network transmits its signal at average of 3,000 watts of effective radiated power (ERP) with typical antenna heights of 300 feet or higher. This is in contrast to the average cellular/pcs network constructed with 100-watt transmitters at a height of 90 feet. USA Mobility's network is a simulcast system meaning that the device receives signal from overlapping layers of transmitters. Should one transmitter be lost in the system where there is simulcast coverage, the device will still receive the message. This describes why our devices still worked in the center of New Orleans immediately following Hurricane Katrina.

2. The Public Switched Phone Network can be Bypassed

As has been documented in the news, a most frustrating issue during the aftermath of a disaster event (or in an evacuation) is actually getting a voice connection via home, office or cell phone. By design, USA Mobility's data network does not have voice capability and typically does not get overloaded during or after a disaster event. Sending text messages to a pager can be accomplished via satellite without the need for connecting with a landline that may be impaired in the area of concern.

3. Instantaneous Communication with Hundreds of Users

Paging networks are the only wireless networks in existence giving the user the ability to reach hundreds or thousands of users instantaneously and simultaneously through group capcodes. Group capcodes are codes programmed into each pager giving the network the ability to send one message that reaches all users simultaneously. Messaging via cellular or data networks is based on SMS or SMTP (email) protocols which are not simultaneous in their delivery, rather they are sequentially delivered. This potentially means that the last person on the group list will receive the message much, much later than the first person on the list. In addition, email messages are subject to increased risk with the delays inherent in the Internet.

4. Battery Power

This may seem simple, but most people take for granted the power issues related to cell phones and 2way radios. Generator power used for, among other things in an event, charging phones and radios is not always available to everyone needed for the response (or for that matter, the general population of government employees you may want to contact). USA Mobility's devices use standard double AA or triple AAA batteries and last for up to 30 days. This can make a huge difference in communicating or not communicating well in an event.