

OSS

On Scene Systems

Case Study

Homeland Security



FEMA Takes Advantage of On Scene Systems' Mobile Emergency Response System for Communications with Emergency Personnel During Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

About the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA is responsible for leading the nation in preparing for all hazards and effectively managing federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Federal Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency Challenge

For FEMA, the biggest challenge is providing communication to areas affected by a national disaster—hurricane, terrorist act, forest fire, etc. During a national disaster, communication becomes difficult—phones and electricity are out, satellite links are non-functional, Internet access is limited and known landmarks are missing—street signs, roads, bridges and buildings. The challenge is how to maintain control and communication during a national disaster with key emergency and law enforcement personnel. The ability to communicate quickly with emergency and law enforcement personnel is vital in managing and controlling the effects of a national disaster.

The On Scene Systems' Solution

During Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and Hurricane Rita in Texas, FEMA needed to be able to communicate with emergency and law enforcement personnel quickly. On Scene Systems stepped in with a Mobile Emergency Response System (MERS) to help solve the difficult communication problems that Hurricane Katrina caused in New Orleans and Mississippi, and Hurricane Rita in Texas. On Scene Systems' (OSS) Mobile Emergency Response System (MERS) was used as the command center to allow for the ability to not only communicate with emergency and law enforcement personnel, but it was also used to size the damage in the different areas using the audio / video and GPS / GIS computer information system that is part of MERS.

Our Mobile Emergency Response System (MERS) is a self-contained mobile / portable unit, with advanced computer and communication technologies that are seamlessly integrated into a proven, deployable system—computer workstations, a five mile wireless Internet radius, streaming video capabilities with closed captioning and multi-language communications, a satellite uplink, a top-of-the-line GPS/GIS mapping system, and living accommodations when required. The unique aspects of MERS is the integration of audio / video and GPS / GIS with computer information systems. We created a turnkey solution to integrate GPS and Compass direction into video that can then be layered onto GIS maps. The result is a "fly by/drive by video" that can be tracked on a map while viewing the video, presenting the location and direction the camera was pointed at the time the video was created.

In a non-emergency status, MERS can support distance learning, video conferencing, planning and GIS mapping.

The Benefits of the On Scene Systems' Solution

Communication Vehicle for Emergencies and Disasters

The biggest challenge faced during an emergency or disaster is the ability to communicate with both internal and external service providers and key emergency personnel to help ensure precise and rapid responses. On Scene Systems' MERS can make communication very effective and quick by simply transporting a MERS to the affected location. It is a self-contained communication station with satellite internet connectivity T1, phones, television broadcast and radio capabilities.

MERS became the Command Information Center for Hurricane Katrina in Wiggins, Mississippi. This allowed information to flow to the key emergency response personnel and for information to be sent back to the Command Information Center.

Ability to Video Conditions in Emergency and Disaster Areas

Using MERS, you can fly by or drive by an affected area and obtain live coverage of the affected areas and lay it on top of a map to allow for presenting the location and direction the camera was pointed at the time the video was created. This allows the emergency teams to assess the damage and determine quickly the course of action that should be taken.

Ease of Use

On Scene Systems MERS are portable, turnkey solutions. They are easily transported and are self-contained. Once the MERS is placed in an emergency area, there is no additional setup time required. Emergency personnel can immediately use MERS.

Broadens Training Reach and Video Conferencing

With MERS, you can offer live video streaming to support training personnel at their desks or record the classes for on-demand training. Additionally, MERS can be used for video conferencing.

For more information contact:

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