USE CASE

LOUISIANA FirstNet

PRESENTER(s)

Lloyd Miller
Communications Planner
Calcasieu Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP)
337.721.3800 (work)

Robert Daughdril
Emergency Response Coordinator
Calcasieu Parish OHSEP
337.721.3800 (work)

TYPE OF EVENT

Post-weather Event, Community Safety, Public Safety and Environmental Threats

SCENARIO

It is **September 2015**. Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas have been hit by a **Category 4 Hurricane – Hurricane Kate** – with a **16-foot storm surge**. The storm devastated these areas with **high wind damage** and **flooding** in **Cameron** and **Calcasieu Parishes**. **Search and Rescue** (SAR) is underway in **Hackberry** and **Grand Lake** in Cameron Parish. SAR is progressing in **Carlyss, Moss Bluff** and **Lake Charles** – both in **South Lake Charles** and **downtown. Flooding, downed trees** and **power lines** are hampering area movement and SAR activities.

IMPORTANCE OF DATA COMMUNICATIONS

In this scenario, since there is **no common means** to *share* data, the wide assortment of public safety agencies challenges the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in developing a **complete picture** of the situation. Data is shared at meetings by **printing reports** and distributing the information to the different Emergency Support Functions (ESFs). **Phone service** is *severely* disrupted further challenging the distribution of information by fax or even through the use of air cards.

Due to **area-wide damage**, normal communications is inhibited and requires **redundancy** to get the systems functioning. The presence of a **hardened** FirstNet network will *improve* the **reliability** of the network.

With the *large* number of agencies, **interoperability** is a major problem, causing **redundancy** of efforts and **incomplete actions.** With FirstNet, public safety agencies would not have to depend on cell phones or air cards, **competing** with the public for resources. The ability to send data – such as **photographs** of damaged areas to the EOC – could help *better* inform a more **comprehensive** picture *beyond* only voice descriptions of the damage.

Lack of **documentation** and **accountability** also causes numerous challenges. A specific situation involves the use of the **Phoenix System** to **document evacuees** who cannot provide for their own transportation out of the Parish. The use of the Phoenix system currently relies on **local wired** or **Wi-Fi networks** to share information concerning evacuees. FirstNet would provide a hardened network that could be used in **any location**, not relying on local resources that may not provide **adequate security** and **reliability.**

WhatCan DataDo?

Building a dedicated public safety broadband network across the Nation.

Louisiana FirstNet • 7667 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806 • 225-925-7500

ACTIVELY INVOLVED AGENCIES

Local

- **Allen Parish OHSEP**

- **Beauregard Parish OHSEP**

- **Cameron Parish**
  - **Cameron Parish OHSEP**
  - **Cameron Parish Sheriff's Department**
  - **Cameron EMS District 1**
  - **Cameron EMS District 2**
  - **Cameron Pubic Works**

- **Calcasieu Parish**
  - **Calcasieu Parish OHSEP**
  - **Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Department**
  - **Lake Charles Police Department**
  - **Ward 3 Marshal's Office**
  - **Lake Charles Fire Department**
  - **Lake Charles Public Works**
  - **Ward 3 Drainage Board**
  - **Sulphur Police Department**
  - **Sulphur Fire Department**
  - **Carlyss Fire Department**
  - **Houston River Fire Department**
  - **Sulphur Public Works**
  - **Ward 4 Drainage Board**
  - **Westlake Police Department**
  - **Westlake Fire Department**
  - **Westlake Public Words**
  - **Vinton Police Department**

- **Vinton Fire Department**
  - **Ward 6 Fire Department**
  - **Starks Fire Department**
  - **DeQuincy Police Department**
  - **DeQuincy Fire Department**
  - **Ward 6 Fire Department**
  - **Iowa Police Department**
  - **Iowa Fire Department**
  - **Ward 2 District 1**
  - **Ward 2 District 2**
  - **Ward 1 Fire Department**
  - **Acadian Ambulance Service**

- **Jeff Davis Parish OHSEP**

State Agencies

- **Louisiana GOHSEP**

- **Louisiana State Police**

- **Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries**

- **Louisiana National Guard**

- **Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals**
  - **Louisiana Office of Public Health**

- **Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services**

Federal Agencies

- **FEMA**