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Press Release

Local company provides communications system for Hurricane Katrina's relief

Link Communications ships interoperable radio solution to Louisiana

Billings, MT September 2, 2005: In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, emergency responders are facing a hurdle of inoperable communications systems. The New Orleans region's communications network has failed; all major forms of communication are failing. New Orleans emergency workers' problems are even more compounded by communications woes.

A local Billings company, Link Communications, Inc., is shipping emergency communications equipment to Louisiana to aid with the relief efforts. Link Communications' equipment has been requested to provide essential communications for the public safety workers. Public safety agencies, such as police, fire, and sheriff, have different types of radio systems, so intra-agency communication is difficult. Link Communications' solution will fix this problem and provide radio interoperability. Radio interoperability is the ability of public safety workers to communicate with people of a different agency in real time.

In New Orleans, many public agencies are communicating on a single radio frequency. The Associated Press has reported the New Orleans deputy police chief, Warren Riley, as saying "We probably have 20 agencies on one channel right now." Normally the agencies would be on different frequencies using the UHF, VHF, and 800 MHz bands. National Guard units are using ancient communications techniques by using runners to relay messages from point to point.

The problems emergency responders are facing in New Orleans are the same problems that plagued emergency workers in New York on 9/11. Since 9/11, the federal government has distributed

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Link Communications products aid in Katrina relief. \$8.6 billion to the states for emergency preparedness. After all the federal aid granted, this situation demonstrates that states are not yet adequately prepared for emergency communications following a major disaster. Although New Orleans area has a wide-area communications network set up, the centralized equipment is now flooded and inoperable. Rapid deployable radio interoperability systems, manufactured by Link Communications, Inc., are filling the gap left by this failure.

(Attached is a photo of the construction of a TCB Radio Solutions Package)



High-resolution photo available on request.