

Tachyon Networks Provides Disaster Recovery Expertise During Greensburg, Kansas Tornado

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE
SOLUTIONS FOR MISSION-
CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS**



BACKGROUND

On May 5, 2007 a wide long-track tornado destroyed the town of Greensburg, Kansas. The damage from the storm was so severe it earned the rating of EF-5, a first in using the Enhanced Fujita Scale and the first tornado to earn a 5-rating in approximately 10 years. The super-cell was 1.7 miles wide and was on the ground for 22 miles non-stop for 30 minutes. Maximum winds were estimated at 205 mph.

The devastation to property and the landscape was massive. The Mayor of Greensburg would later state that 95% of his community was destroyed. Hours after the tornado hit, Greensburg was judged unsafe and was fully evacuated. The Kansas National Guard was called in to assist in security measures. In addition, over 100 Red Cross officials were called in, some working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the recovery efforts. Shelters were established, and a dusk-to-dawn curfew was put in place in the community. Total damage from the tornado was estimated at about \$268 million.

THE CHALLENGE

The tornado completely destroyed all terrestrial communications infrastructure supporting voice and Internet. This severely hindered emergency management efforts by police, fire and rescue personnel to assess and react to the significant loss of life and property. Historically, first responders use radio dispatches to communicate during disasters. Rendered unreliable due to interference and the sheer volume of requests for help, emergency management crews needed a quick deploy communications solution that would allow residents and relief staff to communicate in the absence of power and electricity. In addition, a transportable solution was required to enable the movement of recovery efforts progressing across the region.

Emergency Response Communication Solutions

THE SOLUTION & RESULTS

Within hours of the storm, Tachyon Networks quickly responded to the town of Greensburg's urgent requests for assistance. Tachyon immediately shipped and deployed a Tachyon Auto Deploy satellite communications solution to the American Red Cross in Greensburg. This VSAT solution combined Tachyon's advanced satellite modem and router capabilities with a robust auto-deploy antenna to provide rescue personnel with toll-quality voice, high-speed data and video functionality. According to Red Cross personnel, "With Tachyon's satellite broadband communications in place, we could immediately access Internet-based applications to circulate critical information to executives and law enforcement agencies across the state." Tachyon's satellite solution also enabled the Red Cross Emergency Notification System, which provided safety notifications to family members of victims.

Furthermore Tachyon donated an Auto Deploy satellite communications solution to the Salvation Army to support their efforts to shelter displaced residents, emergency relief personnel and volunteer workers. The town's main shelter in the Greensburg High School Main Gymnasium was provided the voice and broadband data communications critically needed immediately following the disaster. This enhanced ability to communicate allowed the town to develop a more strategic recovery plan and increased the effectiveness and efficiency of disaster relief efforts.

Finally, Tachyon donated an Auto Deploy satellite communications solution to the Kansas State Troopers, allowing them to perform necessary safety and security operations—including a visit by President George W. Bush to review the devastation.

ABOUT TACHYON NETWORKS

Tachyon Networks has operated more high-end enterprise applications, with more reliability, to more Fortune 500 companies, for longer than any other satellite & wireless operator. As an end-to-end communications solutions provider, we deliver the highest quality satellite service in the industry. Specializing in the Enterprise, Industrial and Government markets, Tachyon is the expert in customized satellite networking solutions for diverse & complex customer environments and applications. Our solutions are financially backed with Service Level Agreements that guarantee the highest levels of networking performance and availability (99.9%). Tachyon is the premier satellite solution for all your complex networking requirements.

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