



Case Study - Hurricane Katrina Emergency Response Network



"Redline's wireless broadband products provided essential voice, video and data communications throughout the Gulf States supporting the Hurricane Katrina emergency relief efforts."

Michael Anderson,
Chairman of Part-15.ORG.



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The Challenge:

Quickly establish voice, video and data communications in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Solution:

A high-speed, wireless point-to-point Ethernet bridge using Redline's AN-50e to provide backhaul and access connectivity.

Result:

Within hours of arriving at the site, emergency crews were able to establish critical communications infrastructure, including a ship-to-shore link for the Naval Task Force, enabling workers to coordinate efforts. The network also enabled hurricane victims to reach out to family and friends and begin the application process for FEMA aid.

Redline's AN-50e provides wireless communications life-line

In the hours after Hurricane Katrina passed through the U.S. Gulf States flooding the area and causing devastating damage throughout the region, Redline Communications' team joined the Naval Post Graduate School and wireless industry organization, PART-15.ORG to establish an Emergency Communications Command Center in Waveland, Mississippi.

The joint effort, in support of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), brought immediate, critical communications infrastructure to the region, providing a life-line to victims of the hurricane and to the crews dispatched to assist them.

Reliable and secure communications

Redline provided reliable and secure high-speed backhaul for internet and VOIP applications that enabled victims to contact family or friends immediately following the devastation. These communications also enabled victims to apply for FEMA aid and coordinate insurance claims.

Redline also provided essential communications to Waveland and Bay St. Louis Police, Fire and municipal governments as well as over-the-water emergency communications links for naval operations in the area.

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Operational Challenges:

- Locating transmission sites
- Installing equipment among debris
- Daily redeployments to meet changing needs

How the Solution Works

Arriving on the scene when street signs and traffic lights were gone, the Redline team first located those in most need, then assessed locations where equipment could be installed. In this deployment, Redline's advanced broadband wireless access and backhaul solution, the AN-50e, provided the high-speed wireless Ethernet bridge configured for point-to-point (PTP) operation. The AN-50e accommodated both backhaul and access functionality through its high-performance, high-capacity, multi-services OFDM platform.

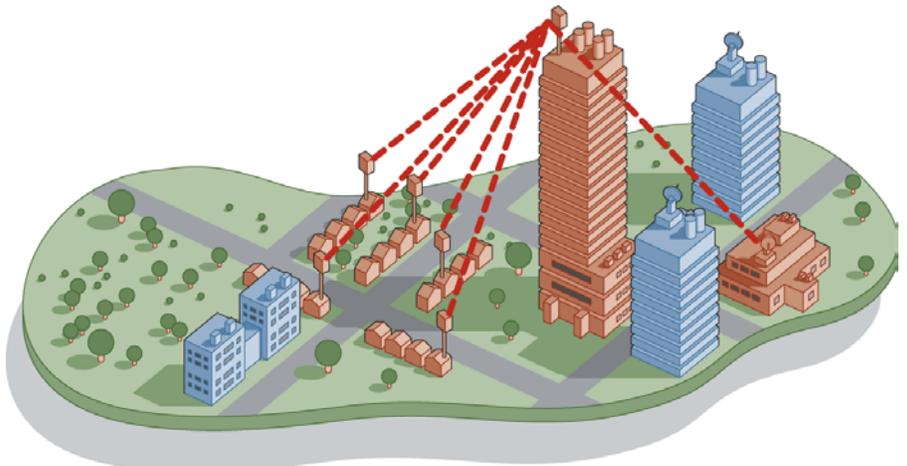
The AN-50e operates in the 5.4 GHz and 5.8 GHz unlicensed bands and delivers speeds of up to 72 Mbps over a distance of 80 km (50 mi). Within hours of arriving in Mississippi, the initial link to the Bay St. Louis Fire Department was established and running at 54 Mbps.

Each day provided a unique set of challenges. As conditions changed, the team assessed and redeployed the AN-50e links on a daily basis to continuously optimize service levels.

Redline's ability to provide a robust and flexible backbone for emergency voice and internet connection both on-shore and off-shore, was part of a massive, collaborative effort to help thousands of people take a first step out of disaster.

Available via:

AN-50e Emergency Deployment Scenarios



Redline's AN-50e was used to quickly establish wireless emergency communications.



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