



**Benton County
Builds Mobile
Communications
Unit with WAVE®**

Manage Emergency Communications in a Secure, Reliable and Highly Mobile Environment

Should a large-scale emergency strike this south-central Washington community, Benton County's mobile command unit is poised to provide command and control for participating agencies and responders. Frequently used by the Department of Energy and the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) for exercises and SWAT training, the WAVE-equipped command post represent the very latest in mobile command capability.

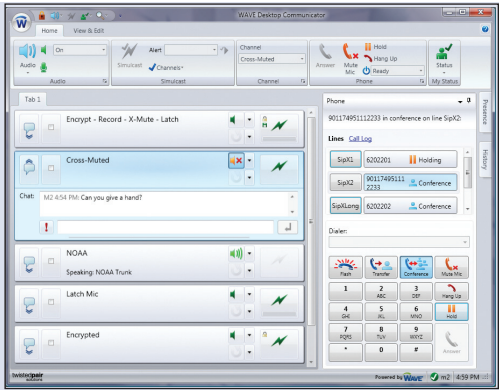
THE CHALLENGE

On June 27, 2000, a fiery car accident sparked a blaze in Benton County, Washington, near the Hanford Nuclear Site. Two days later, the fire had destroyed at least 73 structures and nearly 200,000 acres of land. Highways were closed and hundreds of homes were evacuated. The fire seriously threatened a federal facility storing radioactive waste. For five days, a federal declaration of disaster was issued for the Benton County area.

As this disastrous fire raged, public safety and emergency responders from state and federal agencies faced communications obstacles they were not equipped to overcome. Because of their inability to communicate across agencies and departments, their ability to fight the disaster was severely compromised.

At the time, the fire and police departments, the public-utility district, public works agencies and five area hospitals all utilized an 800MHz simulcast trunked radio system. Lack of enough 800MHz radio equipment for first responders and poor coordination with VHF and UHF systems from various outside agencies, departments and surrounding jurisdictions created a dangerously disconnected emergency response system.

After this devastating fire, the Benton County Emergency Management team committed to finding the most effective, scalable and reliable communications interoperability solution—all on a public county budget.



WAVE Desktop Communicator

"Thanks to the WAVE-powered unit, we have unprecedented peace of mind and confidence in our emergency response capabilities. The software has changed the way our personnel think about communications."

— Valerie Eveland
800MHz System Manager and
Technical Systems Coordinator,
Benton County Emergency Services

THE SOLUTION

After thorough evaluation of every viable option, the Benton County Emergency Management Team selected WAVE software because of its ability to connect any communications signal to the existing IP Network and flawlessly manage communications over that network across an unlimited number of devices. It was crucial to find a solution that would allow them to link together hundreds of responders from multiple agencies for real-time communication at any moment.

"The ability of WAVE to act as a central switchboard and connect all of our existing devices really impressed us," says Valerie Eveland, 800MHz System Manager/ Technical Systems Coordinator for Benton County Emergency Services. "WAVE seamlessly manages communications between all of our devices in a secure, reliable environment. Not having to replace any of our existing devices saved us millions of dollars versus other solutions, and we got a more effective, more capable product."

Benton County's various agencies are now connected to first responders and outside agencies no matter what communications devices they use thanks to a WAVE-powered mobile communications unit, which was unveiled in Benton County in February 2006. The rugged unit allows for the flexibility of operating communications and response in an emergency virtually anywhere. It has satellite data and telecommunications, a mobile PBX for 911 and EOC communications, and the necessary components to patch radio communications between various systems. Four workstations within the mobile unit provide all the necessary elements for telecommunications, video, GIS and data communications. A mobile Emergency Alert System and mobile CSEPP (Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program) Siren Unit means that Benton County is poised and ready should a large-scale emergency strike in the future.

THE RESULTS

Extensive Interoperability Enables a Mobile Command Unit

WAVE software's Radio-over-IP (RoIP) solution helps unify communications technologies into a mobile communications unit that supports real-time interoperability between first responders and federal, state and local agencies. Benton County is now more coordinated and efficient in their response to emergencies, wherever they may occur.

Leveraging Existing Assets Extends Reach & Saves Money

WAVE software helps Benton County bridge radio systems and other devices regardless of technology, manufacturer, frequency or operator, including two-way radios, smartphones, desk-top IP phones and PCs. Native support for MPT-1327, a trunked radio system, extends the reach of their radio networks without adding to their existing infrastructure. And they can expand cost-effectively as needed without expensive proprietary hardware solutions.

ABOUT WAVE

WAVE software empowers your mobile workforce with critical communication applications for secure, real-time collaboration anywhere on any device built upon a battle-tested communications interoperability platform that delivers voice, video, location, presence and other forms of data deployed as an enterprise product or cloud based service throughout commercial, public sector and defense organizations worldwide. Proven in thousands of the most complex deployments around the world, WAVE helps you integrate and control a truly unified communications system so that office-based and mobile workers can simply talk, make decisions and act. WAVE has a Certificate of Networkiness from the U.S. Army and is on the NATO Approved Fielded Products List.

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Let's Talk

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