

Acadian Ambulance deploying new communications technology

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DeRidder, La. -

Acadian Ambulance, the largest private ambulance service in the U.S., has announced that they are deploying In Motion's new onboard Mobile Gateway technology. Authorities say this new technology will help manage operations, improve emergency communications, and save lives across Louisiana and Southeast Texas. So far, the Gateway has been installed in 250 ambulances and command vehicles, including those in Beauregard Parish, and plans are to deploy Gateways throughout the entire Acadian Ambulance fleet.

The Gateway, which turns Acadian's vehicles into reliable and secure mobile hot spots, enables all on-board data devices such as laptops, mobile data terminals, EKGs, and driver and vehicle monitoring systems to connect seamlessly and securely. The Gateway senses and selects the best available wireless network and roams across other networks to provide mobile communications with unparalleled reliability across Acadian's vast service area.

Terry Arceneaux is the vice president of operations for Acadian Ambulance, and he has been a big supporter of the In Motion technology. "In the past we were limited by our radio towers," says Arceneaux, "now, this new technology will actually roam across several networks and frequencies to find the best connection. Our ambulances can now be in better contact with dispatchers in nearly any area, and we have expanded reliability."

The ambulance service has seen positive results almost immediately after the inception of the technology. "In Motion Technology has dramatically improved our operations and reduced our response times," says Kenny Logan, the Director of Electronic Technology for Acadian Ambulance Service. Logan explains that before, "emergency communications took up to two minutes to be received by units in the field. With In Motion Technology, voice, data and diagnostic quality patient information gets through instantaneously."

Acadian's headquarters also uses In Motion's onboard mobility manager, which allows them to monitor and manage operations remotely and in real time. The mobility manager continuously collects and analyzes information from Gateway-equipped vehicles to provide headquarters staff with a virtual

dashboard of detailed information about networks, vehicles and devices.

Not only does the Gateway ease communications between ambulances in the field and the dispatchers, but it is also opens the doors to cutting edge patient treatment. "Through this new equipment, we can automatically send the results from a patient's in-field tests straight to the hospital that will be receiving that patient," he explains. "The results from a patient's 12 lead EKG can go to the hospital or even straight to a doctor's personal digital assistant (p.d.a.), such as an iphone or blackberry, and that doctor can analyze the patient's status immediately, even from home, and begin making his decisions on which procedures to perform when the patient arrives."

Founded in 1971 with just two ambulances, Acadian Ambulance Services is the largest private ambulance company in the United States today, with 270 ambulances and more than 2,650 employees. Acadian transports more than 1,000 patients every day across its vast and diverse service area that includes urban and suburban areas, the remote swamps and offshore Gulf of Mexico oil rigs.

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