



## WPT Leads in Public Safety Partnerships Through The Innovative Use of Communication Technology

*Exploring the use of datacasting in emergency situations broadens the range of tools available to first responders.*

Last fall, Wisconsin Public Television (WPT) provided leadership in a pair of emergency simulations that kept the goal of public safety foremost. The tests allowed first responders to document the efficacy of a unique combination of communication technologies.

As a public service medium, WPT piloted the use of datacasting, WiMAX over ITFS/EBS as well as EvDO and satellite, to send and receive live video, audio and data during emergency simulations.

With technical support provided by a variety of public- and private-sector partners, these tests allowed local firefighters, police and paramedics to send and receive IP-encoded media to and from moving public safety vehicles equipped with antennas and laptop computers. The multiple technologies allowed for a wide wireless geographic range and offered redundancy in the hypothetical case of failure of one or more communications infrastructure.

The simulations were conducted at the Madison Area Technical College Fire Service Education Center. In the first simulation, a fire officer captured a live video stream of a burning building, which was transmitted to a command center and then routed to other emergency vehicles enroute to the scene. The fire officer also retrieved a CAD diagram of the building from a remote database using the same transmission technology.

The second simulation involved a two-car collision with emergency responders requesting and receiving a map of the scene, and also sending video from the scene to other emergency responders and from an ambulance en route to a hospital emergency room.

Exploring the use of datacasting in emergency situations broadens the range of tools available to first responders. WPT is proud to play a role in that measure of public safety.



**Wisconsin Public Television**

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