BAXTER SPRINGS KS AAR

Summary:

On April 27th a forecasted period of extreme weather hit the Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas and Mississippi area. This included a number of tornados. Baxter Springs was one of the first towns to be hit. On Aril 27th the town was hit by an EF2 tornado cutting an 8 mile long path through the town and surrounding areas. 75 homes were completely destroyed and hundreds of buildings received severe to moderate damage. The tornado also caused widespread power outages and knocked out the municipalities fiber & cable networks. Within 24 hours Disaster Tech Lab carried out an initial damage and needs assessment and following that we deployed a volunteer tech team and equipment to Baxter Springs. The team arrived on April 30th and re-established communications for the City Hall, Police Department and Fire Department using our satellite equipment within 2 hours of arrival. Next a WiFi access point providing public internet access was installed at the City Hall.

They then proceeded to repair the municipal fiber network and restored it form 0% to 80% capacity within 24 hours. Following this public WiFi access was installed at the VRC (Volunteer Registration Center) and 2 other locations in the town from where disaster relief work was being coordinated. Once this fiber and cable connectivity had been restored by our team the satellite equipment was removed. The WiFi service will continue to be available for as long as is required and Disaster Tech Lab is also on standby to provide further support to the town when and if needed.

Timeline:

- 4/28: Initial assessment team arrives in Baxter Springs.
- 4/30: Tech team and equipment arrive.
- 4/30: GATR satellite unit is installed, connectivity to City Hall, Police Department and Fire Department is restored. WiFi equipment is installed at the City Hall and public internet service activated.
- 5/1: Disaster Tech Lab volunteer crews start repairing municipal fiber network. Cabling and nodes were repaired on 4 locations around the town restoring the network to 80% capacity (from 0%).

- 5/2: WiFi equipment was installed in 3 locations around Baxter Springs (VFW used by Team Rubicon, Volunteer Recreation Center and one other). Satellite service was taken down as municipal services had been restored and IT equipment at City Hall was restored to use previous settings and service. An alteration was made to the network allowing for faster (future) deployment of a back-up internet service.
- Tech team was stood down as Disaster Tech Lab went to support status for the deployed equipment and services.

Personnel deployed: 6

Equipment deployed: 1 GATR Vsat unit, 3 Aruba Networks WiFi access points, 1 Ubiquiti WiFi access point, various fiber optic equipment.

Cost to municipality of Baxter Springs: $0.