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Cell Phone 911 GPS System Finds Caller

Franklinton, LA – Less than six weeks after installation, Washington Parish’s new Phase 2 cell phone location system has enabled emergency responders to find a man who needed help, but didn’t know his road or address.

Jimmy Creel, Communications Supervisor for the Washington Parish Sheriff’s Office reported, “On December 5, 2004, we received a medical emergency call from a gentleman who was on his cell phone, and had no idea what his address was or the name of his road. Continuing, Deputy Creel said, “Due to the upgrades in our 911 system, the location of the cell phone was picked up by the mapping part of the system and we dispatched an ambulance and our deputies. From the time of the call until the time this man was on the way to the emergency room was a total of 22 minutes. This very well could have saved this man’s life.”

When asked about this, Jim Coleman, Chairman of the Washington Parish Communications District said, “The men and women who responded to that call for help are to be commended for their prompt action. The combination of the latest 911 GPS enabled equipment, plus dedicated emergency response professionals pay dividends in a situation such as this”.

He went on to say, “Washington Parish 911 is currently testing the accuracy of all cell towers in the parish to help ensure that the cell phone companies provide accurate GPS location information to the dispatchers. I am optimistic that all of our wireless providers will be able to meet their FCC mandated requirements. Hopefully full activation will be in place by the end of January.”

The Washington Parish 911 system utilizes an ECS-1000 from CML Emergency Services and GeoLynx mapping from GeoComm, Inc., of St Cloud, MN. Installation and maintenance of this technology is being accomplished by Gage Telephone of Baton Rouge. The project was partially funded by a grant from the Public Safety Foundation of America. Washington Parish received this grant in July, 2003, and was the only Louisiana 911 system to receive such funding approval at that time.

For additional information on 911 in Washington Parish, internet users may access <http://www.wpcde-911.com>