



# EDGE VELOCITY CASE STUDY

## FIRE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

### EDGE VELOCITY'S ROLE IN HURRICANE SANDY

#### CHALLENGE

Hurricane Sandy was the deadliest and most destructive hurricane in recent memory, and the second-costliest hurricane in United States history; killing more than 233 people and causing more than \$75 billion in damages.

While the storm caused a path of damage from Cuba to New England, few places were affected more than New York City, where subway systems and tunnels were flooded, the NY Stock Exchange was closed for two days, homes were lost, businesses were destroyed and power outages and fires swept large parts of the city and its surrounding areas. At least 53 people died in New York as a result of the storm, and the economic losses in New York City were estimated to be roughly \$19 billion.

In many ways the damage produced by Hurricane Sandy was similar to the situation the city endured during the tragic days following 9/11, where widespread damage to critical infrastructure hampered the efforts of first responders. Specifically, flooding to the subway systems rendered the networks of major communications providers useless, as well as the city's NYCWIN (New York City Wireless Integrated Network) public safety network used by New York's police, EMTs and fire departments to save lives in times of need and natural disaster.

#### SOLUTION

Hurricane Sandy had the same devastating impact in 2012, on the communication networks around the city as 9/11 had 11 years before. However this time round, a key difference was the availability of Edge Velocity's technology that allowed the Fire Department of New York to communicate effectively even when all the traditional networks were down. Deployed in conjunction with a Command and Control solution from Raytheon, the Edge Velocity solution provided the ability for teams to effectively communicate and coordinate their approach for saving lives and preventing further property damage.

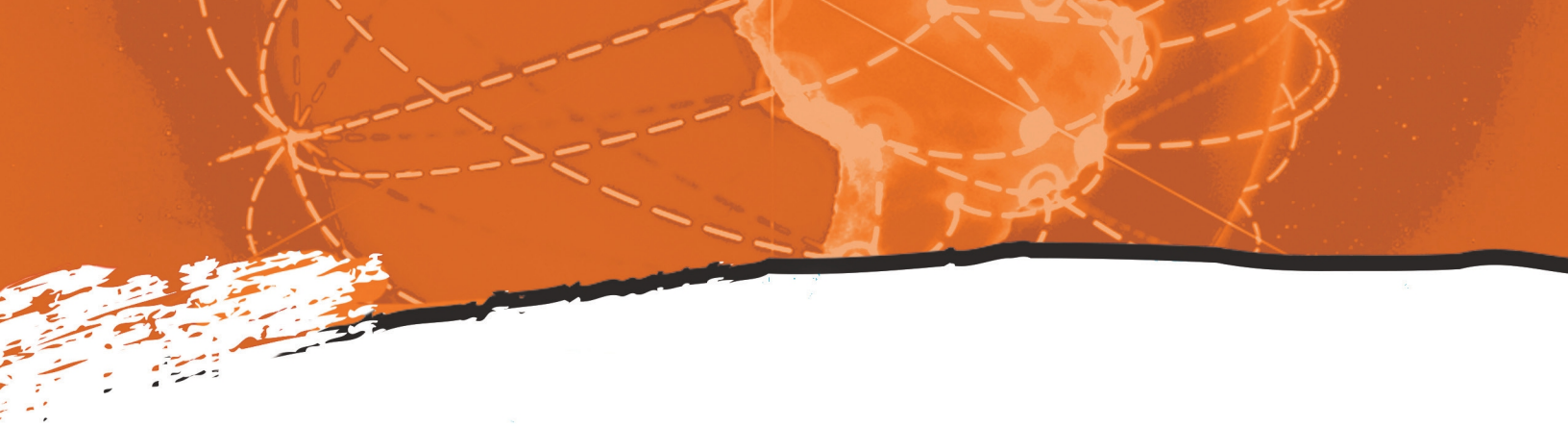
#### RESULTS

Edge Velocity's solution aided the efforts of the FDNY by providing an end-to-end network that was reliable, secure, and continuous, allowing rescue efforts to operate as successfully as possible under the harshest of conditions. While the solution boasts many features and benefits, the aspect of the solution lauded most by the FDNY following Hurricane Sandy was its inherent intelligence that -- even when all known networks were unavailable -- continued to search for an alternate communications

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path for the voice, video and data traffic related to the rescue effort. With major carrier networks and the **NYCWiN network** down, Edge Velocity's solution continued to scan available backhaul options for communications occurring between first responders fighting fires. According to the FDNY, the Edge Velocity solution's relentless search ultimately identified an available NYCWiN network, a few miles away over the Tappan Zee Bridge, that was able to create the continuous communications in the field.

Following the storm, experts concluded that the combination of high winds and well-developed fires would have produced much more damage had it not been for the extraordinary efforts of the FDNY, who were instrumental in preventing the fires from spreading more extensively throughout the city.

While the bravery and professionalism of the FDNY deserves the credit for ensuring that the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy was not more widespread, in the aftermath of the hurricane many first responders identified their ability to effectively communicate between teams as a critical component of the effort's success.

Were it not for the self-healing capabilities of the Edge Velocity solution that continually ensures the most reliable communications path, the damage from Sandy could have been much more significant. For a solution inspired by 9/11 there is no better accolade to receive, and no better place to receive it.

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