



# New Jersey Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness **NEWS**

Jon S. Corzine, *Governor*

Richard L. Cañas, *Director*

**For Immediate Release**  
December 17, 2008

**For More Information Contact**  
Scott Kisch, OHSP (609) 588-7250

## **State Purchases Satellite Telephones for County Offices of Emergency Management -Phones and Equipment will be used by First Responders during an Emergency-**

TRENTON — New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Director Richard L. Cañas announced today the state has purchased state-of-the-art satellite phones for the state's 21 counties.

Cañas said the satellite phones will be assigned to each county's office of emergency management. Satellite phones use Low-Earth-Orbit (LEO) satellite technology that provides worldwide coverage and enables emergency personnel to communicate when cellular and traditional landline telephone communications fail. The phones can also be used in remote areas when cellular service is not available.

The phones, which in total cost approximately \$30,000, are being paid with residual funds from a federal fiscal year 2005 homeland security grant. The state is able to reprogram federal funds that are not spent by the counties and local governments after a given period of time.

"Because of effective grant management practices; we were able to use these leftover federal funds from three years ago to purchase the phones for each county's OEM," Cañas said. "Investing in upgrades to communications equipment for emergency personnel will continue to be a top funding priority for our office."

"The satellite phones will help us to achieve the much needed communication connectivity and interoperability among state and county first responders in the event of a catastrophic disaster," said Major Ed Cetnar, Commanding Officer of the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management within the New Jersey State Police.

Cañas said the state will pay for the phones, equipment and vehicle kits while each county will be responsible for the monthly service plans. The counties began taking delivery of their phones last week. Last year the state purchased similar phones for the Division of Fire Safety within the Department of Community Affairs.

Governor Corzine created the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) after taking office in 2006. OHSP is responsible for leading the state's counter-terrorism and preparedness efforts. OHSP oversees and distributes discretionary state and federal homeland security and preparedness funds on behalf of the State of New Jersey.

# # #

