



Cingular Deploys New Cell Sites in Washington Parish

Teamwork with Washington Parish Communications District Enables Sites to be E911-Ready

Overview:

Cingular Wireless, the nation's largest wireless carrier, is embarking on a significant expansion of its network throughout the Gulf States as part of an ongoing commitment to enhance and expand its ALLOVERSM network nationwide.

By year end, nearly 200 new cell sites will be in place in the Gulf States, including three that have been erected in Washington Parish, two of which have just become operational and one that will be ready in the next week. These Washington Parish sites will greatly enhance wireless phone coverage and service quality for Cingular's customers there, as well as those traveling through the region.

What is E911?

E911, mandated and overseen by the Federal Communications Commission, allows 911 operators to determine the wireless phone number and approximate location of origin of an emergency call made from a wireless phone.

Cingular currently provides Enhanced 911 (E911) service to more than 2,000 dispatch centers or public safety answering points (PSAPs) throughout the country. and the list keeps growing. E911 Phase II enables a 911 operator to more precisely estimate the location of a caller – a key advantage in deploying emergency services personnel.

Basic 911 service is of course available from all wireless phones today, and Cingular and its public safety partners continue to make excellent progress introducing and maintaining E911 service in communities nationwide.

E911 – and what it means for Washington Parish?

Cingular, working closely with the Washington Parish Communications District, has successfully implemented E911 Phase II service at the new Washington Parish cell sites.

"Cingular and the Washington Parish Communications District have enjoyed a very collaborative working relationship, successfully navigating federal regulations and requirements to ensure that E911 Phase II was deployed on the new sites as quickly as possible," said Gerald Denicola, Cingular's Sales Director for Louisiana.

Choosing a location, getting local government approvals and erecting a cell site can be a lengthy process, but it's ultimately a rewarding one for Cingular -- and its customers.

"We are pleased that the new sites are in place in Washington Parish, that they are E911 Phase II-ready, and thank the Washington Parish Communications District for its cooperation in enhancing the safety of Parish residents," Denicola added.