



**MORROW  
COUNTY  
EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT**

*For more information about how to prepare for an emergency, check our website at [www.csepp.net](http://www.csepp.net).*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Eastern Oregon comes Unwired**

**Congressman Greg Walden to cut wires launching U.S.' biggest "Hot Spot"**

*The "Watermelon Capital of the World" is now one gigantic High Tech WiFi sweet spot.*

EASTERN OREGON – Phase I of the largest region-wide wireless broadband digital communications (WiFi) system in the U.S. will be activated February 5<sup>th</sup> in "wire cutting" ceremonies to be held in Boardman and Hermiston, OR. Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR), EZ Wireless CEO Fred Ziari and other dignitaries will begin the "unwiring" of the 600 square mile wireless network at 12:30 p.m. at the Port of Morrow headquarters in Boardman, OR. Several federal, state and local public officials, Homeland Security and emergency management personnel and global technology company executives will also be a part of the festivities.

The system is being developed through a unique joint public/private partnership with EZ Wireless, LLC, a global leader in application development, design and engineering for broadband wireless and mobile emergency management solutions and the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) being administered by the Morrow County Office of Emergency Management.

“Access to secure ‘real time’ data for emergency responders that are mobile has historically been difficult and expensive. We were asked by CSEPP to address this challenge and we were able to solve it,” says EZ Wireless President Fred Ziari. “We developed a unique, highly secure 256-bit encrypted approach using wireless broadband that gave the emergency management people the capability they had, until now, only dreamed of. The big difference with our broadband wireless is we can cover a whole city or an entire region, not just a building or a city-block. That means one can stay connected while walking or driving around town.”

Judge Terry Tallman, Chairman of the Morrow County Commissioners adds, “But, the really exciting by-product was the creation of the nation’s largest ‘hot spot’ that opens exciting opportunities for other agencies, businesses and consumers using universal wireless access to high speed internet connections.”

A new sophisticated system called, Incident Response Information System (IRIS) will also be unveiled at the wire cutting ceremonies. IRIS allows first responders and emergency management personnel to have accurate mobile information in real time as they respond to any emergency. “This exciting wire cutting not only allows our rural region to leap-frog the ‘digital divide’, it proves that when working together in a public/private partnership, government can be an innovator,” said Casey Beard, Director of Morrow County Emergency Management and the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP).

Congressman Walden and the other dignitaries will be shown a mobile demonstration of the high speed broadband wireless (WiFi) internet connection capabilities. While driving around Boardman (and later in Hermiston) they will be able, from any location in the city, to get a wireless connection to the internet that is about 5 to 10 times faster than a normal T1 or DSL connection.

Officials will then visit the Hermiston Safety Center before arriving for a reception at the Hermiston Community Center. Hermiston

Chief of Police Dan Coulombe has expanded the wireless capabilities of the CSEPP system to include intelligent traffic control applications and improved efficiencies for the deployment and paperwork challenges of his officers. He will demonstrate the local Hermiston “smart policing” capabilities to Congressman Walden and the other dignitaries before they go to the Hermiston Community Center for a follow-up “unwiring” celebration with Hermiston Mayor Bob Severson and Hermiston City Manager Ed Brookshier scheduled for 3 p.m.

“This kind of unique opportunity for our rural communities to be the first in the nation to have universal high speed wireless access to the internet is analogous to the first city to get telephones or electricity or even running water,” Rod Davis, Hermiston Chamber of Commerce Manager said.

When completed, Phase I will encompass a geographical area more than four times the area of Portland, OR and six times larger than the City of Seattle. The 600+square mile “cloud” will feature broadband wireless communications technologies (WiFi) for emergency services, public safety, transportation and economic development for the region. The project includes parts of Oregon and Washington; four counties, and, seven entire cities. Phase II, planned for the summer of 2004 will cover an additional seven cities in Eastern Oregon.

WiFi, GPS and digital security experts such as, Chameleon, Trimble and YDI Wireless were part of the technology team of EZ Wireless in the development of the hardware and software of the WI-FI system. Representatives from many of the companies will be on hand at the reception at the Hermiston Community Center.

Other attendees to the day’s activities will include officials from FEMA’s Region Ten, U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Oregon’s Office of Emergency Management, Oregon State Police, Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon State senators and representatives, area county commissioners and mayors, high tech industry representatives and many local civic and business leaders.

### About IRZ-EZ Wireless, LLC

IRZ Consulting, Inc. and its subsidiary, EZ Wireless, LLC are leaders in the engineering and installation of secure broadband wireless systems for Emergency Management and Homeland Security. IRZ has been involved in cutting edge digital communications, GPS and information technologies for nearly two decades. In addition to the completed design and installation of the CSEPP network, IRZ and EZ Wireless are working with several agencies and municipalities in designing and developing secure broadband wireless communications systems for first responders and emergency personnel as well as businesses and consumers.

### About CSEPP

Early studies of emergency preparedness of the communities near the eight chemical agent stockpile sites, including the Umatilla Chemical Depot in Hermiston, Oregon, showed the need to improve existing emergency plans, training, equipment and facilities. The purpose of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) is to improve the emergency response capabilities of communities that surround the chemical stockpiles. CSEPP recognizes that each community has its own particular needs for emergency preparedness. Emergency services, for the communities surrounding the Umatilla Chemical Depot, are provided by local fire and police departments; who train annually to test their response capabilities. The IRIS was developed with these emergency responders in mind. Ensuring their safety was the impetus. With a handheld RECON, first responders are able to view the “risk envelope” in relation to their location, via global positioning systems (GPS), and to retrieve, collect and send data from the field. WiFi has allowed the IRIS to work in the field, building confidence and ensuring the safety of our first responders.

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