

Local Firm Powers N.Y. Cell Phone Sites

By Jessica Fargen
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Never before were cellular phones so critical than when the World Trade Center towers collapsed after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. As people frantically called loved ones and rescue workers and law enforcement personnel tried to communicate generators supplied by a Canton company provided the power. Generators from FM Emergency Generator, Inc. were used to charge cell phone sites at ground zero in the hopes that those trapped or missing would use their phones to call.

Company president Michael Molway, who arrived in New York on Sept. 12, said his firm supplied about a dozen generators to charge cell sites, including an FBI cell site on Staten Island. One cell site in Lower Manhattan receives about 400 phone calls a minute, Molway said. The company transports, fuels and maintains generators after disasters, Molway said. The company contracts with phone companies for disaster recovery. Although the company provides disaster relief services Molway wasn't prepared for the scene.

"It was like a war zone. We've never had to do anything like that," Molway said. "The TV shows it, and you just can't relate to it until you are there. There are emotions, the dirt, the smell." Molway and several employees returned Wednesday night. Four employees are in New York maintaining the generators. The company at 35 Pequit St. started in 1970 and has about 35 employees. It also has an office in West Springfield.

- On August 1, FM Emergency Generator, Inc. of Canton completed recovery operations in Lower Manhattan. The company had been on site at the World Trade Center since September 12, performing a variety of tasks, but primarily keeping cellular communications sites powered by generators. As the final phase of recovery operations progressed, Fm Generator was awarded contracts for infrastructure upgrades at two telephone switching centers, one in Queens and one in lower Manhattan. Company president, Michael Molway said the experience was an emotional one for FM Employees. "They looked at the devastation," he said, "and struggled to make sense of it all."

- On Monday, November 12 at 10:30 a.m., FM Generator, Inc. received a telephone call to activate their Disaster Recovery Team once again, for the crash of American Airlines Flight 587. By noon, FM Emergency Generator crews and equipment were diverted from the World Trade Center Project to help power up portable cell sites in Queens for the wireless phone companies. At approximately 4 p.m. the first crew of reinforcements from Canton arrived in Rockaway, Queens — the new "Ground Zero." The temporary generators, Cell Sites, are being used to handle increased telephone calls, as well as local and federal cellular calls for the NYSB. FM Emergency Generator, Inc., 35 Pequit Street, is a generator set distributor with a service organization that specializes in disaster recovery systems.

FM Generator Responds to Emergency in North Carolina

On Thursday, December 5, FM Emergency Generator, Inc. was called to help provide generator power for several cellular communications companies in North Carolina that were without power in the aftermath of a massive winter storm.

While battling snowy conditions, FM Generator employees prepared and located 40 generator sets, 5,000 feet of cable, diesel fuel, fuel tanks, chain saws and related equipment as well as 15 employees to provide Disaster Relief Services in Raleigh North Carolina.

The first wave of FM Generator employees and equipment arrived at a communications switch outside of Raleigh, North Carolina on Friday, December 6 and immediately began deploying equipment to cell sites throughout the region.

"Our Goal," said FM Emergency Generator President Michael Molway, "was to provide power to Cell Sites in order to establish communications for emergency services and cellular phone services." FM Generator and its employees were first recognized for their exceptional Disaster Recovery Services at Ground Zero in Manhattan, where the company provided backup power for dozens of Cell Sites from September 2001 to April 2002.