

Giuliani visits Global Relief: Says technology could come in handy tracking pandemics

BY [Roni Reino](#)
rreino@fosters.com
Saturday, June 12, 2010

PORTSMOUTH — Former New York City Mayor Ruldoph Giuliani toured the Portsmouth Global Relief Technologies center on Friday to discuss the company's recent projects, especially those pertaining to emergency relief efforts.

During his tour, Giuliani learned the company was receiving calls from hospitals and fire departments asking for software to use in everyday situations.

"We are having conversations with several hospitals and fire departments that have contacted us," Senior Vice President of Global Relief Technologies Adam Cote said. "We already have several emergency responders such as the National Guard and local first responders that use our software."

Cote said Giuliani had seemed particularly interested in the public health applications of their technologies and how it could be used across the United States. Currently, he said, there is a lot of trouble tracking data that could lead to pandemics.

Although the company does not currently have the software to link hospital patient history with local fire and police departments for emergencies, the talks have started. During the tour, Giuliani discussed how advantageous such a system would be for cities.



John Huff/Staff photographer Company President Michael Gray talks to Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani during a visit to Global Relief Technologies in Portsmouth Friday.



John Huff/Staff photographer Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani uses his iPhone during a visit to Global Relief Technologies in Portsmouth Friday.

"In a hospital, they should be entering the information immediately into an electronic database," Giuliani said.

In a disaster such as a hurricane, Giuliani said it would benefit rescue workers to know where disabled residents were located. It would help rescue efforts tremendously, he said. By tracking possible health trends, health workers could pinpoint pandemics before they occur.

"A lot of the technology out there isn't quick enough," Cote noted.

By linking systems to online secured websites, health organizations, officials and security workers could stay updated on crisis situations. The company uses a Rapid Data Management System (RDMS) to take existing forms that companies use and place them on computer systems. The idea is to remove the step of taking notes and placing them on the computer and putting the information directly on the digital system.

RDMS helps various emergency management and disaster relief organizations collect and analyze critical information in real time. It is the sole provider of hand-held technology to the American Red Cross and also works with the Maine Emergency Management Agency, the Maine National Guard, US Marines Forces Pacific Command, USAID

and the Navy's Bureau of Medicine.

"They can collect data, they can take a picture, shoot video and get a GPS lock on where they are," Cote said. "Then they click and send it as quick as it takes to send a text message."

The company can put its software on more than 20 different PDAs available today, including Toughbooks, iPhones, and other PDAs.

"He has a great interest in technology and emergency management," Cote said of Giuliani. "He likes to follow companies that are on the cutting edge of that."