WIRELESS
It's Great Until It Isn't

Timely Telecom –

Wireless communications services have become ubiquitous in our businesses and institutions. From omnipresent Wi-Fi to other more specialized services, wireless supports enhanced operations and provides a measurable ROI. But as with many situations, no good deed goes unpunished, and wireless may be a similar victim.

Briefly, let's review the common wireless services found in the efficient workplace:

- WiFi – provides connectivity for many obvious services but also is used for support of Internet of Things (IoT) sensors and Smart Building management
- Cellular DAS – provides reliable operation of cell phones throughout facilities. While originally for visitors these systems are now essential for the increased use of cellular by employees
- Emergency Responder Radio Coverage (ERRC) – A requirement of NFPA 1225 to assure interior two-way radio coverage for emergency first responders
- Proprietary LTE and 5G – In many situations Wi-Fi is actually at its limits. The use of private enhanced broadband wireless such as LTE and 5G enables process functions at an unsurpassed level, especially with IoT

Likely, the deployment of these capabilities has been done on an incremental basis by various organizations. The consequence, an issue now being recognized, is diminished performance of many wireless systems due to radio frequency conflicts. Simply stated, some of these systems don't play nicely with adjacent systems.

Unless your organization maintains a dedicated wireless management function, it is probably time for a fresh look at the complex infrastructure that comprises your wireless capabilities. The invisible wireless stew that envelops your facilities may be functioning contrary to its functional intent.

Remember, the issues are likely diminished service and safety, not necessarily performance failure. In fact, a poorly designed or performing ERRC system, a system intended to provide improved life safety and property protection, may actually put first responder communications at risk.

Contact ConOps Solutions at 908 864-2102 for a no obligation discussion regarding the best approach to your communications technology needs.

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