

OEMC

Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications



Private Sector Camera Initiative

Being prepared for an emergency situation requires the coordination of many different agencies.

Chicago launched its Chicago Public/Private Task Force, with the goal of bringing the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) together with the Fire, Police, Aviation and Public Health departments to strategically plan and coordinate responses to emergency situations.

OEMC has also established key relationships with regional partners and business leaders through the Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM), the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), Chicago FIRST and Chicago area hospitals to help unify communications within our region.

Now, we would like to invite you—the private sector—to join us in working together to make Chicago as safe and prepared as any big City can be by joining our Private Sector Camera Initiative.

Project Overview

The Private Sector Camera Initiative links Chicago based organizations, companies and sister agencies' cameras systems into the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) state-of-the-art unified video surveillance network.

These cameras provide Emergency Management officials and Homeland Security Directors additional points of contact throughout the City that can be accessed during an emergency.

Compatibility

In order for interested participants' cameras to be viewed by OEMC, they must be compatible with OEMC's video management platform. OEMC starts by providing organizations with a supported hardware list so they can determine their compatible equipment options.

In addition to having the right equipment, the participant will have to meet certain broadband specifications. OEMC requires a public IP address directly accessible by OEMC over the internet. While virtually any broadband type connection is supported, the recommended minimum uplink speed is 128Mbps.

Once the participant has purchased and installed their equipment, OEMC's Surveillance Video Architect will do a site visit to configure the router.

Frequently Asked Questions

What cameras does OEMC want to access?

OEMC is only interested in obtaining access to exterior cameras on the public way.

How often will the camera feeds be accessed?

Camera feeds will only be accessed during emergency situations.

Who will have access to the camera feeds?

Highly trained Crime Surveillance Specialists will have access to the cameras, but again, only during emergency situations.

Will OEMC be recording footage from the cameras?

OEMC will NOT be recording the camera feeds.

How long does it take to configure the equipment?

Once all the necessary equipment is purchased, the process takes approximately one day per building.

Current Partners

City agencies include the Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago Transit Authority, Chicago Park District, Millennium Park, Soldier Field, Streets and Sanitation, Fire, Aviation and Police.

For more information on private sector cameras, please contact OEMC at (312) 746-9111.