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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 4, 2008

**Office of Emergency Management**  
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## **Vernon is S.M.A.R.T. about Emergency Communications** *Town Joins U.S. Dept. of Justice National Satellite Mutual Aid Radio Talkgroup*

**Vernon, CT** - The Town of Vernon, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) announced today that it joined the national Satellite Mutual Aid Radio Talkgroup (SMART) program, becoming the first municipality in Connecticut to connect to the program's nationwide emergency push-to-talk satellite radio network. Created and administered by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the SMART program allows public safety officials authorized by DOJ to participate in a secure nationwide two-way satellite radio talkgroup using Mobile Satellite Ventures (MSV) satellite communications network.

“Reliable communications are critical during natural or man-made disasters, when wireline and terrestrial wireless systems might be inoperable,” stated Mayor Jason McCoy of Vernon. “SMART will serve as an important tool to supplement our existing interoperable communications and enhance the ability of our first-responders to communicate and coordinate quickly and effectively in times of urgent need, regardless of location and infrastructure.”

The Town of Vernon connects to the SMART network utilizing a mobile satellite radio that was purchased with State Homeland Security grant funds administered by the Capitol Region Council of Governments. Vernon's satellite radio supports a range of innovative point-to-point and point-to-multipoint communications capabilities that include push-to-talk, global positioning and voice services.

### **About the S.M.A.R.T. Program**

The DOJ's Wireless Management Office and the FBI's Radio Systems Development Unit created the Satellite Mutual Aid Radio Talkgroup (SMART). SMART is a five beam talkgroup, first established in August of 2007, on the MSV satellite communications network. This talkgroup currently encompasses all of MSV's coverage area over the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and the Caribbean. The FBI Strategic Information and Operations Center monitors SMART on a 24 hours a day--7 days a week basis.

For more information about the Town of Vernon, Office of Emergency Management, visit [www.VernonPrepared.com](http://www.VernonPrepared.com) or call (860) 331-7695.

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