



Lanny Dean (immediate left): "It seems like the Inmarsat network is available everywhere...I have used other products that just did not stand up to the demands"



## VideoMover

The Oklahoma stormchasers all use BGAN in conjunction with iPixCel's VideoMover software, which has been built around the needs of severe weather and news reporters, and emergency managers.

The software is designed for on-the-move operation, when a BGAN terminal is used to transmit streaming video from inside a moving vehicle. A key selling point is the software's ease-of-use and plug-and-play capability. It is designed for high-speed, high-impact tactical operations, where no knowledge of IP networking, router configuration or codec selection is assumed or required.

It uses the latest Microsoft codec, designed around the Media Encoder 9 and VC-1 codec, to deliver high quality video, with built-in motion compensation for fast action events and automatic bandwidth adjustment on the fly. The software also offers users automated store and forward video.

Used in conjunction with the Thrane & Thrane Explorer 527, the VideoMover software enables video streaming at an impressive 128kbps. With the Explorer 727, launched last year, that doubles up to an even more impressive 256kbps.

"The BGAN network is available everywhere, and that is a very strong point," he says. "We cannot always rely on cell phone coverage, and most severe weather events cannot be covered by traditional satellite or microwave trucks due to coverage area and other issues. Additionally, BGAN offers on-the-move transmission capabilities, which SNG [satellite news gathering] trucks cannot."

### Standard gear

Val Castor, a senior stormchaser for KWTW Ch9 in Oklahoma City, uses a DELL Core Duo Notebook attached to a DV camcorder and a Thrane & Thrane Explorer 527 with VideoMover for streaming and store and forward video. When KWTW first started using BGAN in 2007, it was as a back-up unit when cellular coverage was not available, but Castor says the solution is now "standard gear".

Like Payne, Castor says he likes BGAN's ability to get him close to the action. "On several occasions, we have videotaped tornadoes and streamed live from very close range... as close as 100 yards, with debris flying overhead," he says. "I had my vehicle completely totalled from softball-sized hail. I've been in winds on several occasions greater than 100mph, in which my vehicle sustained damage."

Remarkably, even in such conditions, the roof-mounted antenna and in-car satcoms system have been up to the task. Because of the network coverage, Castor and his team are able to report from anywhere, so they can warn local residents about new storm patterns or severe weather before it hits Oklahoma. "This was not possible before BGAN time," says Castor. "The

combination of VideoMover and BGAN/CDMA is great for stormchasing at highway speed. No other technology offers the same flexibility: it's the ultimate way of doing what we do." And the people of Oklahoma would no doubt confirm that these brave reporters, aided by BGAN and VideoMover, do it very well indeed. 📶

**Inmarsat** [www.inmarsat.com/bgan](http://www.inmarsat.com/bgan)

**iPixCel** [www.ipixel.com](http://www.ipixel.com)

**Thrane & Thrane** [www.thrane.com](http://www.thrane.com)

