

Gov. Lynch stresses need for critical info in times of disaster

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PORTSMOUTH — With nearly a half dozen natural disasters under his belt, Gov. John Lynch said Tuesday that providing information during times of trouble at a fast pace is critical and could save lives as well as money.

Lynch made a stop at the Global Relief Technologies headquarters at the Pease Tradeport Tuesday afternoon and along with touring the state-of-the-art facility also engaged its employees on their important occupation.

Before his tour, Lynch was given a brief presentation on the company and how it helps people deal with the aftermath of natural disasters all over the world.

Michael Gray, chief executive officer of GRT, said his company has transcended the need to report conditions in remote areas with a pen and paper, and has developed a technology using hand-held devices and the Internet to do all of the analysis and support work.

The technology is critical during floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and pretty much any type of situation that requires a response from the military or aid organization, said Gray.

Lynch asked if the technology would have helpful during the state's December ice storm, to which Gray responded with a resounding "yes."

Gray also said there are reasons why organizations including the American Red Cross, the International Medical Corps, and the U. S. Marine Corps count on GRT for the real-time data collection and analysis they need to make informed decisions.

The technology is being employed in several Maine communities that have been plagued by flooding, he added.

"It's all about making quick and good decisions based on rapidly changing information," said Lynch.

After thanking the GRT staff for the tour, Lynch encouraged the employees to continue promoting business in the state and to keep up the critical lifesaving work they do.

