



Fiber-Optic Network Service Information

Farmers Mutual Telephone Company provides technically advanced communication services over a fiber-optic redundant network that is superior to other service providers and their networks. Our network offers several technical benefits compared to providers who offer only coaxial, copper, wireless or satellite network delivery solutions.

The FMTC buried fiber-optic network is available to 100% of our subscribers' businesses and homes within our five local exchange territories. Additionally, FMTC's fiber-optic network extends to businesses in neighboring communities that have service agreements in place. The FMTC network provides critically important connections to agriculture, banking, education, medical care, retail, transportation, cellular communications, as well as city, county, state, and federal government, and public safety services in southwest Iowa.

Dedicated Connections

FMTC's fiber-optic network is an Active Ethernet distribution system, with a dedicated fiber line from your location connected to our redundant core transport network. That direct connection means you don't share speed with other customers. Other network types use a shared-access method, where groups of users connect to a common node for a small geographic area, such as a city block or neighborhood, and share a single connection and bandwidth limit back to the core network. At heavy-usage times, all the users on that node could be affected with reduced network performance. **With FMTC's network, each subscriber has an individual connection. No other subscriber's usage will affect your dedicated bandwidth capability.**

Greater Bandwidth

FMTC's fiber-optic network is NCTA Gig-Certified. When more bandwidth is needed, FMTC can offer up to a gigabit per second symmetrical bandwidth connection all the way to the subscriber's location. This is far greater than most other network media types can physically offer.

Symmetrical Speeds

FMTC's fiber-optic network offers the same download speed and upload speed. Subscribing for a specified number of megabits per second of bandwidth offers that same speed on both outgoing and incoming traffic. This provides significant advantages for business functions such as uploading larger file sizes to off-site locations, cloud services, or off-site backups. Some network providers throttle (slow down) speed based on data use. FMTC only offers unlimited data use plans that do not throttle traffic based on data usage.

DSL, cable, and satellite services are typically asymmetrical, and offer a much lower upload speed compared to download. Paying for more download speed than needed is usually required to receive the upload speeds that might be needed with those providers.

High Reliability

Fiber optic cable works by transporting light pulse signals and is unaffected by electromagnetic interference, electrical power lines, wind, weather, UV exposure, or other environmental concerns that may affect satellite or copper-based services. It is also protected against moisture intrusion, and is not affected even if submerged.

Fiber optic cable can perform consistently for many decades with reliable use. Electronic components at each end of a fiber connection can be easily upgraded to maintain and enhance reliability and performance throughout the long usable service life of the optical cable.

Please contact FMTC to discuss how our fiber-optic network can suit your communication needs.