



PUBLIC SAFETY ADVOCACY UPDATE

The **Public Safety Advocacy Update** comes to your inbox with a quick look at events and information you need to stay up to date with the First Responder Network Authority.



Featured advocacy activity

CES Highlights FirstNet Opportunities for Developers, Entrepreneurs to Innovate for First Responders

Each year the Consumer Electronics Association hosts the world's largest consumer electronics trade show featuring the newest technology. At last week's [CES 2019 event](#) in Las Vegas, First Responder Network Authority [staff and leadership spoke at CES and CES Government](#) to discuss technology innovation influenced by FirstNet and how the FirstNet ecosystem supports community resilience.



Many new technology innovations demonstrated at the show – such as wearable devices, smart home gadgets or advances in artificial intelligence – promise benefits that will enhance resiliency for consumers and first responders. As FirstNet continues to expand nationwide, the network creates unique opportunity for industry to develop new solutions to enhance first responder communications. Highlights of the First Responder Network Authority's participation included:

Edward Parkinson, Acting CEO of the First Responder Network Authority, delivered the keynote at CES Government, “Mobile Devices, Apps and FirstNet build Community Resiliency.” With the recent announcement of [FirstNet connections increasing more than 60 percent](#) since October 2018 to more than 5,250 public safety agencies using the network, Parkinson reiterated the importance of the partnership with AT&T successfully building and growing the network.

“We have formed one of the largest and most innovative public-private partnership with AT&T,” said Parkinson. “Together, we are a force multiplier for public safety, bringing together our collective expertise to create an entirely new marketplace for public safety.”

Jennifer Harder, First Responder Network Authority’s Senior Product Director, moderated the “Ensuring Resilient Communications Networks” panel. Harder led a discussion with FirstNet subscriber Fire Chief **Erik Newman** from Stockton, CA. Newman praised FirstNet after his team used FirstNet-ready radios during the Napa and Sonoma wildfires that destroyed area cell towers in October 2017. Newman explained that once his firefighters experienced communicating over FirstNet’s reliable network that guaranteed interoperability with area agencies, he didn’t have to sell the network to his team – FirstNet sold itself.

Chrissie Coon, Senior Public Safety Liaison, participated in an “Emergency Preparedness” panel, emphasizing the organization’s work in local communities to bring together all interested stakeholders to more fully understand the needs of public safety.

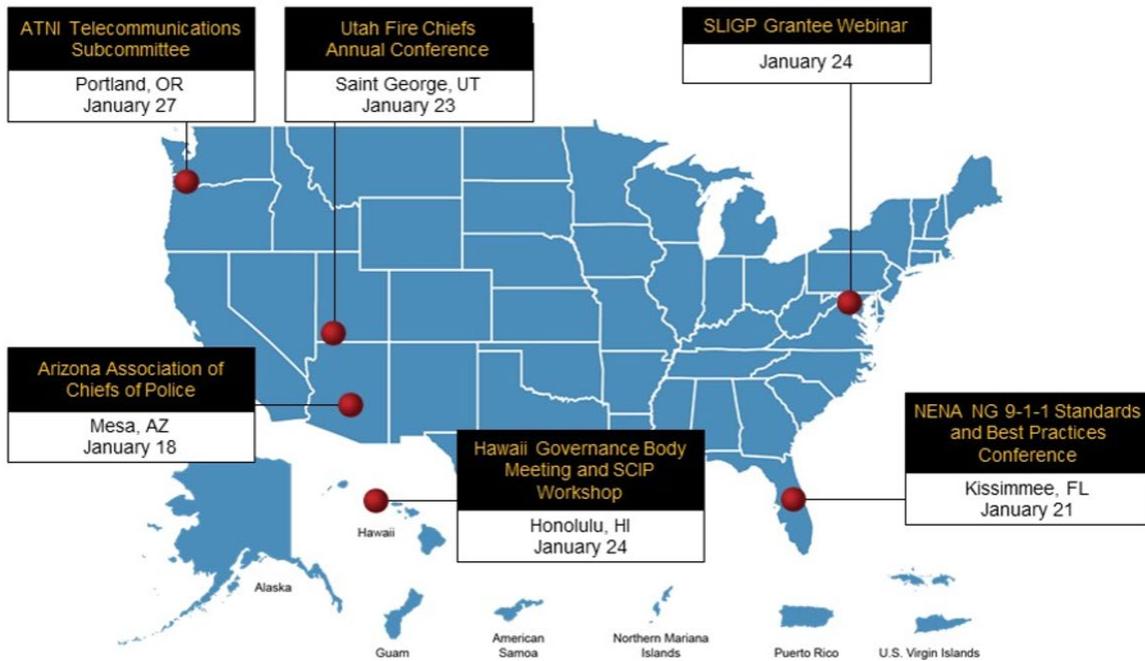
Bill Schrier, First Responder Network Authority Senior Advisor participated in “CES Smart Cities, Public Safety and Disaster Preparedness” to discuss the advantages of smart cities using connective technologies to secure and empower citizens during emergencies. Schrier suggested bridging public–private use of existing information currently housed on commonly used apps for everyday incidents or disasters.

CES’s annual show is a unique opportunity for the First Responder Network Authority to engage with technology experts and industry representatives to discuss how FirstNet can leverage technological solutions to best meet public safety’s needs. The First Responder Network Authority is grateful to CES for the opportunity to participate and speak during this year’s successful conference.

To learn more, [check out the presentations](#) on the CES website.



Select upcoming Public Safety Advocacy Engagements



FirstNet in Action



FirstNet adds 50,000+ square miles of LTE coverage for subscribers

Last year, AT&T customers and FirstNet subscribers got a major boost in wireless connectivity as the company increased LTE coverage by more than 50,000 square miles nationwide. AT&T also deployed Band 14 spectrum in more than 500 rural and urban markets around the country – and increased FirstNet connections by

more than 425,000. [Learn more about FirstNet's progress](#) in this press release.

Remembering FirstNet Pioneer Ed Reynolds

The First Responder Network Authority was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of former First Responder Network Authority Board member **Ed Reynolds** on New Year's Day. Reynolds was a founding member of the FirstNet board, who made the network what it is today. Reynolds served on the FirstNet Board from its inception in 2012 until 2018. He was inducted into the Wireless Hall of Fame in 2018. We remember Reynolds' life and legacy in

this [blog post](#).



First Responder Network Authority Gains First-Hand Experience with Boulder, CO, Fire Department

Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District (BMFPD) is a volunteer fire department that serves the mountainous area west of Boulder, CO. Recently, four BMFPD firefighters brought an attack engine to First Responder Network Authority's Boulder laboratory to provide the staff with a hands-on experience with their gear,

equipment, and communication tools. [Read our blog to learn more](#) about the fire department's daily routine, as well as their mobile technology needs and FirstNet's potential solutions.



FirstNet in the news

NATIONAL COVERAGE

[Highway police find productivity gains uploading video via FirstNet](#) (*SYS-CON Media*, Jan. 10)

Before implementing the WatchGuard system with LTE connectivity, the Arkansas Highway Police were required to visit one of 10 wireless access points positioned throughout the state and upload recorded video events captured over the prior seven days. "It wasn't very efficient having an officer drive over an hour to upload video," said Arkansas Highway Police Chief **Jay Thompson**. "So, that's when we began looking into connectivity technologies we could leverage like the State's FirstNet wireless network."

[AT&T deploys 700 MHz Band 14 spectrum in 500 markets](#) (*MissionCritical Communications*, Jan. 9)

AT&T increased the Long Term Evolution (LTE) coverage area for the AT&T network and First Responder Network Authority public-safety communications platform by more than 50,000 square miles nationwide, covering an additional 1 million individuals, during 2018. The carrier also deployed band 14 spectrum in more than 500 markets.

[AT&T says FirstNet subscribers surpass 425K](#) (*ECN Magazine*, Jan. 9)

Momentum continues on AT&T's network build and FirstNet public safety communications initiative.

The operator said there are 425,000 FirstNet subscribers across 5,250 public safety agencies, a 60 percent jump in connections since October. As part of the effort, AT&T has deployed Band 14 in more than 500 markets, expanding the LTE coverage footprint by about 50,000 square miles. Less than a year in, AT&T is moving quickly and said the project (which is a public-private partnership with the First Responder Network Authority) is months ahead of schedule, currently meeting 40 percent of this year's rural and urban coverage targets.

[AT&T selects second MCPTT provider, 3GPP-compliant service planned this year](#) (*MissionCritical Communications*, Jan. 8)

AT&T has completed its procurement for a second carrier-integrated mission-critical push to talk (MCPTT) provider and plans to launch Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP)-compliant MCPTT solutions in the second half of the year. The carrier, which operates the nationwide public-safety broadband network, declined to name the second MCPTT vendor. As the carrier standardizes on 3GPP MCPTT, it is working with long-standing partners, as well as new ones, on MCPTT services for FirstNet.

[Mission-critical feature move forward during latest standards meeting](#) (*MissionCritical Communications*, Jan. 4)

The December quarterly Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) meetings in Sorrento, Italy, addressed standards in several areas relevant to mission-critical broadband in three separate plenary group meetings. During the Radio Access Network (RAN) plenary, the First Responder Network Authority presented its contribution titled "Mission-Critical Services and NR V2X." This contribution requested support for public-safety direct-mode capabilities in 5G, potentially leveraging the existing vehicle-to-everything V2X work. V2X communications include device to device (D2D) communications defined as part of proximity services (ProSe) in Release 12 and Release 13 of the specification.

[AT&T and Los Angeles introduce ShakeAlertLA for citizens](#) (*Zacks Equity Research*, Jan. 4)

In an effort to help improve public safety, AT&T Inc. in collaboration with the City of Los Angeles administration introduced ShakeAlertLA — a mobile app that alerts residents of Los Angeles County in case of an earthquake. Further, the telco giant and Los Angeles are exploring ways to use technology to solve problems such as traffic congestion and public safety for the benefit of community.

[Drones. AI. Bodycams. Is technology making us safer?](#) (*Government Technology*, Jan. 3)

The Chicago Police Department created six high-tech police hubs throughout the city. Their experience highlights the advances that law enforcement has made not just in adopting new, high-tech crime-fighting tools, but also with integrating the various tools, systems and platforms and then turning massive amounts of data into intelligence that can make cities safer.... First envisioned in the wake of the terrorist attacks of 2001, FirstNet went live in 2018, and promises to deliver big data at high speeds while providing the police with priority and data pre-emption along with heightened security.

REGIONAL COVERAGE

[CES 2019: Cities must boost cyber infrastructure before disaster](#) (*Las Vegas Review Journal*, Jan. 9)

Last March, ransomware crippled the city of Atlanta's computer systems, affecting its digital operations for more than a week. The cyberattack was a sobering reminder that the infrastructure local governments must protect is no longer just roads, pipes and power grids, according to a panel of CES 2019 experts who convened at the Westgate Las Vegas on Wednesday. "Government doesn't

know what that solution is until they bring industry in and have a conversation with industry about what are your challenges and how can we work together to fix them?" said **Chrissie Coon**, a former North Las Vegas Police Department employee and public safety leader at FirstNet.

[Federal shutdown slows hurricane recovery in NC](#) (*NC Capitol*, Jan. 7)

Three weeks into the partial federal government shutdown, the biggest impact on North Carolina so far is a slowdown in recovery efforts following Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael, according to Governor **Roy Cooper's** administration. Delays in the Federal Register mean North Carolina will have to wait longer for additional Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds promised for hurricane recovery, officials said. Also, the FirstNet Grant is winding down, and a balance remains that can be drawn on for current operations.

[County gears up for 2019 wireless system](#) (*The Leader Herald*, NY, Dec. 31)

The Fulton County Board of Supervisors on Thursday discussed how the county is gearing up for a new federal public safety wireless broadband system. "We are ready to get started with the First Net system," county Administrative Officer **Jon Stead** said at the County Office Building. Stead said a representative of his office, **Beth Lathers**, and county Emergency Management Office Director **Steve Santa Maria** met with First Net representatives in a preliminary meeting.



Be social with FirstNet



FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov · 24h

Acting CEO Ed Parkinson highlights progress of Band 14 deployment, buildout of LTE coverage, and growth of #FirstNet connections in new press release. Read more here: firstnet.gov/news/more-5000... @EdPFirstNet

Edward Parkinson @EdPFirstNet · 24h

50,000 square miles added, 425,000+ connections, Band 14 in 500 markets, 5,250 agencies using FirstNet. Awesome progress about.att.com/story/2019/fir...
 @FirstNet @FirstNetGov @CES #fire #police #EMS #publicsafety #catalyst #service

FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov · Jan 8

Shaking things up—LA releases #earthquake app to warn residents in advance of 5+ magnitude earthquakes. App pulls data from @USGS earthquake early warning system to give the public potentially life-saving seconds. Via @latimes: latimes.com/local/lanow/la... #TechTuesday

Long-awaited earthquake early warning app for L.A. can now be dow...
 Los Angeles has unveiled its long-anticipated earthquake early warning app for smartphones for Apple and Android, which is now available for download.
latimes.com

MissionCritical @RadioResourceMG · Jan 7

Dean Prochaska, @FirstNetGov senior director of standards, offers a look at the progress of mission-critical features in @3GPPLive standards as well as the role @FirstNetGov is playing in that process: bit.ly/2FduonO



FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov · Jan 4

The FirstNet Authority represents #publicsafety interests in LTE standards development work. Read our latest update on progress with standards for mission critical features via @RadioResourceMG: rrmediagroup.com/Features/Featu...

The screenshot shows the RadioResource International website. At the top, there are logos for 'RadioResource MissionCritical COMMUNICATIONS' and 'RadioResource INTERNATIONAL'. Below the logos is a navigation bar with links: Home | News | Topics | eLearning | SuperGuide | Community | Events | JobSource. The main article title is 'Mission-Critical Features Move Forward During Latest Standards Meetings'. The article text states: 'The December quarterly Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) meetings in Sorrento, Italy, addressed standards in several areas relevant to mission-critical broadband in three separate plenary group meetings. FULL STORY'. There is an image of several hard hats in various colors (yellow, black, white, blue, grey) and the 3GPP logo.



UNLV OED @UNLVecondev · 27 Dec 2018

The cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, and Henderson are leading the way in using wireless technologies for disaster preparedness. Edward Parkinson, Acting CEO of the @FirstNetGov, talks more about that here, and will speak at @CES 2019. buff.ly/2QY1604



FirstNet.gov

