



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: First Responder Network Authority Fosters Innovation, Gathers Feedback at Emerging Tech Events

Last week, the First Responder Network Authority and Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service's Product Development Center (TEEX PDC) held a Public Safety Innovation Day in College Station, Texas, in conjunction with TEEX PDC's Under Fire 2019 event.



The event highlighted development of the First Responder Network Authority Roadmap – an effort underway to advance the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network, working closely with public safety. Attendees included public safety officials from fire and rescue, EMS, FEMA's Urban Search and Rescue team, and law enforcement technology and communication committees. Each discipline gathered to discuss topics related to Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)/Robotics, Internet of Things (IoT)/Sensors, Applications and Location-Based Services/Personnel Accountability

The day concluded with First Responder Network Authority Board Chair **Edward Horowitz** speaking on the importance of public safety's participation in events such as this, and what they can do to involve their committees, organizations, and agencies or departments. Using the roadmap as an

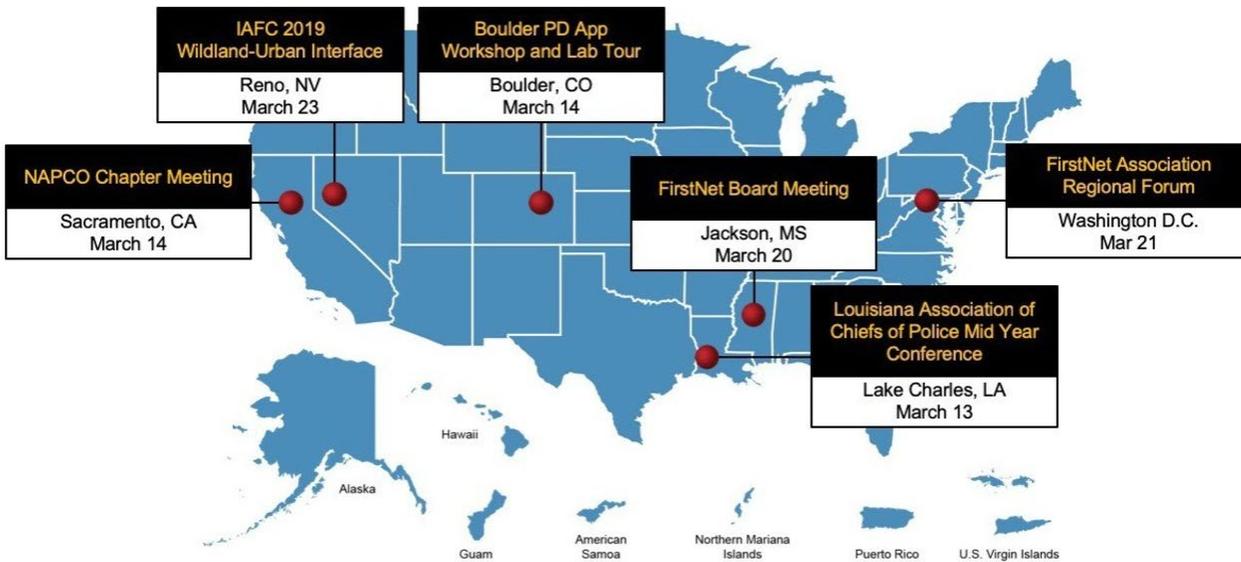
example, Horowitz reiterated the First Responder Network Authority's commitment to engage with public safety stakeholders. Public safety's continued input on the network is necessary for FirstNet to evolve and improve – maximizing the overall impact on emergency communications.

Also, on March 7 and 8, the First Responder Network Authority participated as one of four co-hosts at the Under Fire-Response Innovation Showdown, a public safety technology conference that brought together public safety officials and 20 innovative technology companies focused on enhancing public safety and homeland security. This year's event featured a technology summit, tech industry pitches to public safety, and a TEEX Disaster City® demonstration.

The First Responder Network Authority extends its appreciation to TEEX PDC and their co-hosts of the Under Fire-Response Innovative Showdown for the opportunity to learn about and interact with public safety attendees and representatives from companies showcasing their products.



Select Upcoming Public Safety Advocacy Engagements



FirstNet in Action

Cell Site Launches in Baltimore Area to Support Public Safety

Last week, a new FirstNet cell site was launched in Maryland. The new site, located in a high-traffic, highly populated area near Baltimore, will bring increased coverage and capacity to local first

responders.

First Responder Network Authority
Acting CEO **Edward**

Parkinson kicked off a ribbon

cutting event with remarks by AT&T and Congressman **Dutch Ruppersberger** of Maryland's second Congressional District. Read more in the [press release](#) announcing the site. Also watch a short video on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).



Public Safety First Podcast Episode 18

In this episode of the Public Safety First podcast, **Dave Mulholland**, Administrator for the Arlington Co. (VA) Emergency Communications Center, discusses the evolution of emergency communications in the National Capital Region and shares his experiences with a FirstNet demo at the Marine Corps Marathon. [Listen now](#).



FirstNet in the news

[Five issues PDs must address to harness the potential of NG911 and FirstNet](#) (*PoliceOne*, Mar. 1)

The convergence of Next Generation 911 and FirstNet technologies presents enormous challenges for public safety. As part of its Critical Issues in Policing Series, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) recently released a white paper that outlines five key areas PDs must address. The paper was the result of a project undertaken by PERF to examine the impact that the emergence of two new technologies – Next Generation 911 (NG911) systems and the FirstNet wireless broadband network for police and other first responders – will have upon public safety emergency communications.

[AT&T exec expects to hit second FirstNet buildout milestone by year-end](#) (*MissionCritical Communications*, Mar. 1)

An AT&T executive said that the company expects to reach 60 percent completion of the First

Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) broadband network by the end of 2019. That 60 percent completion is the next milestone laid out in AT&T's contract with FirstNet and would trigger a second reimbursement payment of more than \$1 billion, said AT&T Chief Financial Officer (CFO) **John Stephens** at the Morgan Stanley Technology, Media & Telecom Conference. The AT&T contract with FirstNet stipulates that 60 percent of the buildout be completed by the first quarter of 2020, but the project is running about six months ahead of schedule right now, Stephens said.

[What is the future of public safety software?](#) (*Officer.com*, Feb. 28)

Public safety technology has come a long way, but it still has untapped potential, much of which is still being defined. First responders and public safety personnel deserve access to the latest devices, software and technological advancements to help them be their best in the moments that matter. With a new year of industry trends and trade shows starting, let's take a look at some of the top trends that were talked about at shows in 2018 that your agency should be aware of.

[Surviving the Storm: Why Broadband Matters for Public Safety](#) (*NC Gigabit*, Feb. 21)

One of the reforms that came out of the 9-11 Commission was an effort by the federal government to bridge gaps in emergency responder communications. FirstNet is a nationwide public safety broadband network, a service of the federal government provided under exclusive contract with AT&T. Whiteville, seat of Columbus County, was the first city in North Carolina to sign up for FirstNet.

[ADT to leverage FirstNet for security monitoring](#) (*Security Info Watch*, Feb. 21)

ADT announced on Thursday that it will be the first home security provider to offer an enhanced communications experience via FirstNet – public safety's dedicated, nationwide communications platform. FirstNet is being built with AT&T in a public-private partnership with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) – an independent agency within the federal government. It's designed for first responders and those critical to their emergency response. Covering over 99% of the U.S. population, FirstNet provides the public safety community with a reliable and highly secure connection to the critical information they need to respond to incidents.



Be social with FirstNet



FirstNet, Built with AT&T @FirstNet · Mar 4

Watch to learn how Texas City Independent School District uses #FirstNet to connect to law enforcement to ensure interoperability and connectivity for student safety: my.firstnet.com/2fa4b840



FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov · Mar 2

Fire Chief Richard Carrizzo brings 35+ yrs of experience in #fire and emergency services to his role on the #FirstNetAuthority Board. Hear his thoughts on the @FirstNet network in our new video.



The Only Dedicated Network for All of Public Safety



FirstNet Authority  @FirstNetGov · Feb 25

At Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, it's great to see the growing @FirstNet ecosystem on display! We are proud to bring public safety's needs to industry to help drive innovation for their lifesaving mission. #MWC19



[FirstNet.gov](https://www.firstnet.gov)

