



PUBLIC SAFETY ADVOCACY UPDATE | NOVEMBER 18, 2019



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FEATURED ADVOCACY ACTIVITY

Expanded Telehealth Uses and Capabilities on the FirstNet Network

The First Responder Network Authority's (FirstNet Authority) Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) recently formed a Strike Team to examine new applications of telehealth, in response to the charge by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) leaders to provide the “Right Care, at the Right Time, at the Right Place.” Telehealth and, in particular, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3) program are current discussion topics in EMS forums nationwide.

This year, the CMS Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) unveiled the **ET3 model for EMS payment**. It is a voluntary five-year model pilot program that will, for the first time, provide payment to an EMS service, after a 911 dispatch, for assessment and treatment in place (TIP) on scene without transport to a hospital Emergency Department (ED) being a necessary part of the process. It also allows for EMS payment for transporting a patient under the same circumstances to an alternative destination (AD) rather than a hospital ED. This is important because currently, Medicare regulations only allow payment for EMS ground transportation services when individuals are transported to hospitals, critical access hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, or dialysis centers. Most Medicare patients are thus transported to a hospital, even when a lower acuity destination may more appropriately meet the individual's needs.

The only nationwide network dedicated to public safety, FirstNet is uniquely situated to facilitate a key component of the ET3 program—providing TIP using a qualified health care practitioner connected through a telehealth link.

FirstNet not only meets the minimum criteria, as a dedicated public safety network it also has several features that distinguish it from other standard commercial wireless networks. Key among these differentiators are priority and preemption available to FirstNet subscribers, validated by the FirstNet Authority. This means that the network will always prioritize access by FirstNet subscribers over commercial or other uses in a given area at the same time. Additionally, FirstNet routes all information from public safety subscribers through a dedicated core network, allowing for more security and reliability. FirstNet also provides end-to-end encryption of data being sent through the network, helping to ensure the cybersecurity of medical and patient information.

The FirstNet network was designed with substantial and ongoing input from public safety to ensure that the needs of public safety today and tomorrow are met. FirstNet can be used daily by EMS providers not only for ET3 telehealth purposes, but also for sending video, medical imaging (ultrasound or CT images), and medical vital sign information, such as data from devices like the ubiquitous “12 lead monitor” and a host of other sensors and devices.

For more information on the ET3 program, visit the CMS website: <https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/et3/faq.html>

To read more about the FirstNet Authority’s PSAC, click [here](#).

To participate with the FirstNet Authority’s public safety programs for EMS, visit [FirstNet.gov](#).

To learn more about FirstNet products and solutions, visit [FirstNet.com](#).

FirstNet Authority Survey

The FirstNet Authority has commissioned an independent marketing research firm to conduct a survey to gather public safety feedback on our programs and activities. Ignited USA sent the survey last week – it should only take 10-15 minutes to complete. Your answers will help us further understand and assist public safety individuals and organizations with their needs. Thank you for your participation and feedback.



SELECT UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS



In-Person Events

Connecticut SIEC Meeting

Nov. 19, Middletown, CT

CalFRN Meeting

Nov. 20, Sacramento, CA

Texas EMS Conference

Nov. 24, Fort Worth, TX

New England Council for EMS

Nov. 25, Newport, RI

Webinars and Teleconferences

PSAC Executive Committee Call

November 18

PSAC Bi-Monthly Webinar

November 19



Photos: Steven Byles (Left), Lake Ozark Fire Protection District (Right)

Preparation is Key: First Responder Network Authority enhances readiness in Missouri

Every summer, tens of thousands of boating enthusiasts descend on Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri for one of the most popular powerboat racing events in the nation. For the 2019 Lake Race, local public safety agencies relied on FirstNet to support their communication and data needs. FirstNet Authority Senior Public Safety Advisor Kyle Richardson provides an overview of the event, including a demonstration of the Roadmap principles in action.

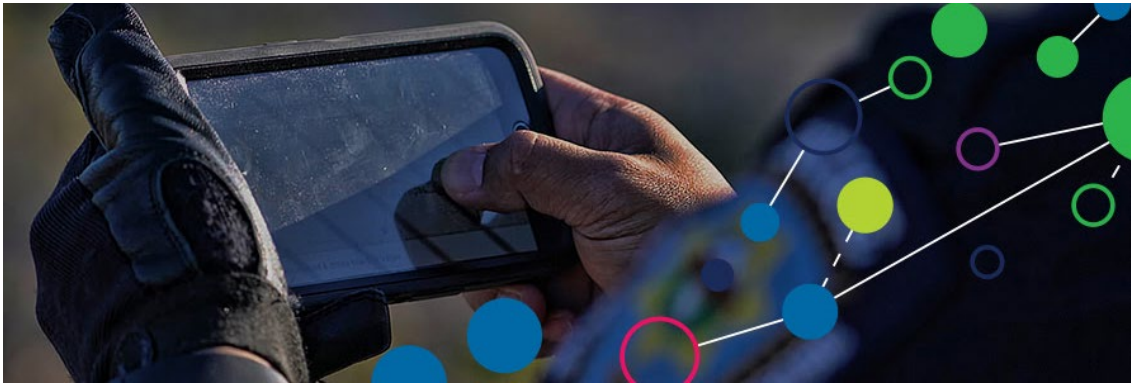
[Find out how local public safety agencies benefited from a SatCOLT and Enhanced Push-to-Talk.](#)



Direct Mode Enhancements Move Forward in Latest 3GPP Standards

The FirstNet Authority recently participated in the Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) meetings in Newport Beach, California. Dean Prochaska, FirstNet Authority Director of Standards, recaps the standards body meeting and what it means for public safety.

[Read about the features that were advanced in the standards process.](#)



R2 Challenge: Driving Innovation for disaster response and resilience

When disaster strikes, public safety and local officials need the best tools to save lives, and a critical response infrastructure is necessary to help economies recover and remain resilient after these events. In recognition of this, three agencies within the U.S. Department of Commerce have come together to launch the Accelerate R2 Network Challenge to foster innovations in response and resiliency technologies. Applications are being accepted to create a network of organizations working collaboratively to address disaster challenges with innovative technologies. Up to \$1 million will be awarded to support strategies to overcome response and resiliency challenges.

[Learn more about this grant challenge and the agencies supporting it.](#)



FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

Regional Coverage

Viaero to support FirstNet network deployment in rural Colorado, Nebraska

The North Platte Telegraph, NE, Nov. 3

AT&T reports network expansion in Daviess County

SurfKY, Nov. 4

National Coverage

Inside the 'Tech to Protect' hackathon that aims to help emergency responders with new technology

GeekWire, Nov. 4

Department of Health & Human Services picks AT&T for network modernization, wireless FirstNet access

Telecompaper, Nov. 6

Data science could help Californians battle future wildfires

GCN, Nov. 13



BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET



Happening Now: @FirstNet deployable is on site as #DC celebrates the @Nationals World Series victory! #NatsWonTheFight



We are still excited about last weekend's @techtotoprotect & the innovative creations from phenomenal developers. @geekwire gives an inside look at the hackathon aimed to help emergency responders! #TechtoProtect



Inside the 'Tech to Protect' hackathon that aims to help emergency responders wit...
In the late 1990s, Barry Luke responded to a house call in Gainesville, Fla. The firefighter and his partner went to the back of the house, where a leaking liquefied...
[geekwire.com](#)



Taking #PublicSafety #Communications to the Next Level: #FirstNet's Innovation and Test Lab via @effgov @FirstNetGov
#communications
#emergencycommunications #firstresponders



Taking Public Safety Communications to the Next Level: Fir...
The Boulder, Colorado, lab tests FirstNet-compatible devices and applications before their deployment in the field.
[efficientgov.com](#)



Jeff Bratcher @jrbratch · Nov 6
Great last two days @WestMetroFire Judging the finalists for the NIST/PSCR Haptics Challenge - honored to judge the competition alongside Captain Heini and local firefighters Stephanie Harms, and Chintae Kim as well as Derek Orr w NIST/PSCR and @Ryanspack w AT&T/FirstNet. - at West Metro Fire Training Center



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.

