



PUBLIC SAFETY ADVOCACY UPDATE | MAY 4, 2020



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FirstNet Authority signals FirstNet's nationwide impact in FY19 Annual Report to Congress

Over the last fiscal year, the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) accomplished many significant milestones for the public safety community, as reported in its Annual Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2019. The report highlights FirstNet's continued progress and growth nationwide, in addition to providing updates on the FirstNet Authority's operations, activities, financial condition, and key accomplishments.

Under the theme, "Connecting Communities", the FirstNet Authority detailed several success stories featuring first responders relying on FirstNet's connectivity to save lives and protect their communities.

The FirstNet Authority report also provided a snapshot of the past year's activities and investments in furtherance of its mission.

- **FirstNet Authority-AT&T Contract Oversight.** The FirstNet Authority provided continued oversight of its contract partner, AT&T, and noted major progress on FirstNet's build-out growing application and device ecosystem.
- **FirstNet Roadmap.** In August 2019, the FirstNet Authority released the FirstNet Roadmap to document priorities for the network's future innovation and investment. The Roadmap was developed with public safety, industry, government, and AT&T input, and outlines public safety's operational needs and technology trends for mobile broadband communications over the next five years.

- **FirstNet Investment Strategy.** In FY 2019, the FirstNet Authority Board approved two investment opportunities to enhance FirstNet: 1) expand FirstNet’s dedicated deployable network assets during emergencies and planned events; and 2) initiate upgrades to the FirstNet Core to enable 5G network capabilities. Both investments align with the Roadmap and reflect public safety’s most critical network and mobile broadband needs.
- **Nationwide Public Safety Engagement.** In FY 2019, the FirstNet Authority conducted over 1,100 engagements reaching nearly 33,000 public safety agencies nationwide. These engagements raised FirstNet awareness with public safety stakeholders and collected valuable feedback to help the FirstNet Authority develop and grow the network consistent with public safety’s specific communication needs.

Read the FirstNet Authority’s FY 2019 Annual Report to Congress [here](#).

FIRSTNET IN ACTION



Innovate for our heroes: Advance Emergency Response through Augmented Reality and the Internet of Things

The FirstNet Authority is supporting NIST’s Public Safety Communications Research Division on a new prize challenge that aims to leverage augmented reality solutions and Internet of Things data to help public safety officials respond more effectively and efficiently.

[Learn how the FirstNet Authority is supporting this prize challenge with PSCR and how to get involved.](#)



FirstNet Roadmap Domains: Coverage and capacity

While the FirstNet Core already separates public safety traffic from commercial traffic, the inclusion of coverage and capacity as a Roadmap domain will help to ensure FirstNet network presence within any given geography, with sufficient capacity for public safety to perform its duties whether they are serving communities that are urban, rural, or something in between.

[Learn more about the Coverage and Capacity domain and how it's impacting the evolution of the FirstNet network.](#)



Views of a Volunteer Firefighter

More than half of U.S. firefighters are volunteers—individuals who share a common objective of helping those in need. In this blog, a FirstNet Authority staff member and volunteer firefighter/EMT explains what it means to serve his community.

[Learn about Zachary Smith's role as a volunteer firefighter/EMT.](#)



New podcast episode highlights prize challenges for public safety

In this episode, Ellen Ryan, Deputy Division Chief for the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Public Safety Communications Research Division, discusses the division's Open Innovation program, including current and future grant and prize challenge opportunities.

[Listen to the latest episode of the Public Safety First podcast.](#)

National Coverage

FirstNet Subscribers Reach 1.3M; 12,000 Agencies

Mission Critical Communications, April 22

NIST Launches Innovation Contests in IoT, Augmented Reality to Boost Emergency Response

NextGov, April 22

California fire district leveraging FirstNet, BeOn PTT from L3Harris to save significant LMR costs

Urgent Communications, April 20

Regional Coverage

UNC Wilmington students' lives uprooted three years in a row

ABC11 News, April 30)

BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET



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Today is [#NationalSuperheroDay](#)! Here at the [#FirstNetAuthority](#), we're celebrating the real superheroes among us – the [#firstresponders](#) serving on the front lines, protecting and serving their communities. Thank you for all that you do! [#EverydayHeroes](#)



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Today marks the start of [#PublicServiceRecognitionWeek](#)! [#ThankYou](#) to the federal, state, county, local, and tribal government workers for the critical work you do to improve your communities. [firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/...](#) [#PSRW](#)

Thank you to local, state, tribal, and federal workers for your dedication and service.



THE FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY CELEBRATES PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK 2020

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9-1-1 professionals collect and deliver critical data to first responders. In this [@FirstNetGov](#) blog, learn how emergency communications centers are using [#FirstNet](#) to help telecommunications deliver accurate, robust info to on-the-scene responders: [firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/...](#)





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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.

