



PUBLIC SAFETY ADVOCACY UPDATE | SEPT. 21, 2020



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FEATURED ADVOCACY ACTIVITY

FirstNet Central updated features and capabilities

Last week, the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) held the first in a series of webinars focused on specific FirstNet operational capabilities. The webinar covered the FirstNet Central Portal, and the tool's recently updated features, functions, and capabilities.

After an introduction by the FirstNet Authority's **Tim Pierce**, the FirstNet Authority's CEO **Ed Parkinson** and Public Safety Advocacy Executive Director **Dave Buchannan** opened the meeting by welcoming the 100+ public safety professionals to the online event. Ed and Dave discussed the growing impact of FirstNet's most recently added operational capabilities. Public safety stakeholders were encouraged to stay engaged with the FirstNet Authority through its virtual engagements, as their input remains important to the network's future.

Next, the FirstNet Authority's **Tracey Murdock** and **Randy Kerr** presented an overview on the administrative, operational, and training components included in FirstNet Central. Tracey navigated the portal for the group, a platform for FirstNet users to access information and manage various functions at the local agency level, including: plans, devices, service, users, and training. Randy discussed the Network Status Map and the tool's ability to enhance situational awareness and support operations during emergencies and other incidents. He also touched on the FirstNet Assist mobile app used to access FirstNet Central.

Tracey highlighted the training support and resources available on the FirstNet Central platform. Once logged onto the platform, FirstNet users have access to videos, user guides, and instructor-led training activities on how to efficiently use specific tools and capabilities.

Finally, two FirstNet users shared their experiences using FirstNet to support incident response. **Matt Weil**, Assistant Fire Chief for the North Oakland, MI Fire Authority and **Kenneth Kiley**, Director of Support Services Division for the Oakland University Police discussed using the network after excessive water from the Edenville Dam failure damaged towers in Midland County, MI. Within an hour of notifying AT&T/FirstNet Support about the incident interrupting service, AT&T/FirstNet sent a SatCOLT to the scene, distributed a drop kit with 20 mobile devices and 20 hotspots, and set up a drone to facilitate communication for response and recovery missions.

Captain **Easton Peterson** from the Fairfax County, VA Fire & Rescue also described his use of the FirstNet Advanced Network Status Map. With the ability to check the network status in a certain area in advance of his team's deployment, Easton used the tool to facilitate a request for a deployable asset to cover the anticipated outage.

The FirstNet Authority appreciates the interest in the FirstNet Central Portal and encouraged the webinar participants to look out for future updates and enhancements.

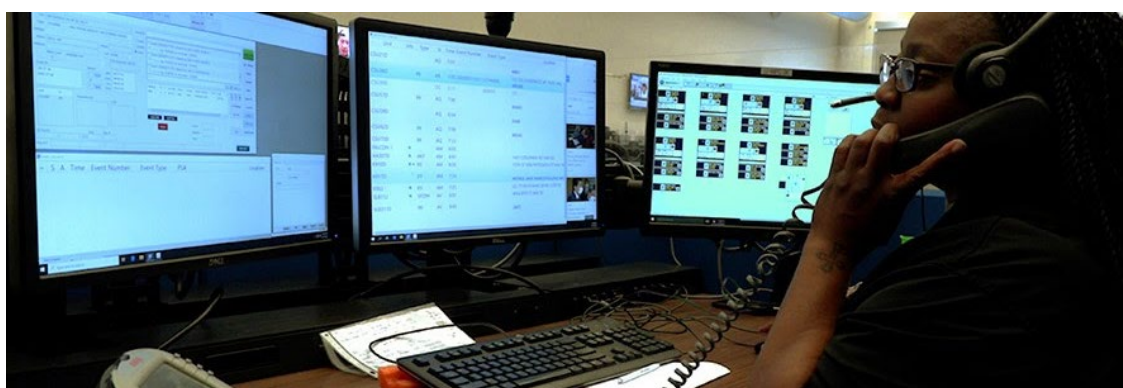


Submit your nomination for the Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Communications Award

The **Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award** is the First Responder Network Authority's (FirstNet Authority) sole, prestigious award. Established in 2017, the award recognizes the spirit of service, commitment, and dedication that is a proud tradition among public safety. The award was created in honor of Chief Harlin R. McEwen for his extraordinary expertise, experience, and leadership as the founding Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Chair. This award honors an individual who has displayed remarkable leadership or made significant contributions in the field of public safety broadband communications. Any sworn or civilian member of public safety (fire service, law enforcement, EMS, emergency management, and 911/emergency communications) is eligible for this award.



FIRSTNET IN ACTION



FirstNet Provides Continuity for Washington DC Emergency Call Center During Pandemic

As the nation continues to face the effects of COVID-19, **call centers** have had to adjust their operations in order to maintain communications for 9-1-1 and 3-1-1 calls, while keeping their employees safe. Thanks to FirstNet, the Office of Unified Communications has been able to continue operating safely and securely.



FirstNet: Improving Communications for Public Safety

After the tragedies of September 11, 2001 highlighted fundamental issues within the nation's first responder communications systems, the 9/11 Commission recommended creating a single, nationwide broadband network for public safety. The FirstNet Authority was created through the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act to carry out that recommendation. Today, **the FirstNet Authority is working to keep public safety connected** during every emergency.



Edward Horowitz - Shaping FirstNet from need to reality

Edward Horowitz reflects on his time as Chair of the FirstNet Authority Board and shares how his career and personal experiences led him to serve the nation's public safety community.

FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

Regional Coverage

Wisconsin Emergency Management Aided Search For Missing Sawyer County Girl On Focus, Sept. 15

Maine's first responder communications network to get upgrade

Mainebiz, Sept. 10

AT&T tower going up in E'town

The Sun, Sept. 10

Weld Planning Board approves cellphone tower application

Sun Journal, Sept. 9

National Coverage

AT&T Reveals Its First 5G Mobile Hotspot For Superfast Internet On The Go

Forbes, Sept. 15

BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET



September is #NationalPreparednessMonth! @FirstNetGov is helping #publicsafety agencies #preparefordisasters and #BeReady for any emergency. Find out how: [firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/...](https://firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/)



@FirstNetGov board member and @CityofGulfport Mayor @BillyHewes briefing the @weatherchannel on #HurricaneSally2020. Representing #Firstnet! Be safe down there Mayor!



In #Virginia—from NoVa to the Cumberland Gap to Hampton Roads to Skyline Drive—#FirstResponders need reliable coverage and connectivity. Check out FirstNet.gov/Virginia to discover how public safety is using @FirstNet in the Commonwealth. #NationalVirginiaDay #WeServeYou



The @FirstNet Core enables the features that make #FirstNet a dedicated network for #firstresponders. Check out the full video to discover what will be possible with the Core and #5G: youtube.com/watch?v=1aLU4v...



FirstNet Core 101

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.

