



PUBLIC SAFETY ADVOCACY UPDATE | OCTOBER 5, 2020



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FEATURED ADVOCACY ACTIVITY

FirstNet Authority holds push-to-talk webinar with Virginia public safety agencies

Last month, the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) and the AT&T FirstNet team co-hosted a virtual event for Virginia public safety agencies to learn more about expanding their use of voice communications on FirstNet. More than 80 people from city, county, and state agencies across the Commonwealth logged on for a “deep dive” into the details and capabilities of FirstNet Push-to-Talk (FNPTT) and AT&T’s Enhanced Push-to-Talk (EPTT).

Tom Crabbs, the Virginia State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) and Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), opened the event discussing the importance of examining available technology solutions that increase communication efficiency and effectiveness. Tom emphasized that as first responders increasingly rely on PTT applications in emergency operations, FNPTT will continue to evolve and mature for public safety use.

The FirstNet Authority’s Senior Public Safety Advisor **Lori Stone** then provided an update on FirstNet’s latest subscriber numbers, deployable assets supporting planned and emergency events, and the growing number of FirstNet-ready devices and unique apps available in the [FirstNet App Catalog](#). She detailed some of the network’s newest Band 14 features, including new Access Point Name (APN) types, enhanced roaming capability, and the beta testing of High Power User Equipment (HPUE).

Lori also noted that the FirstNet Authority continues to [collaborate with public safety agencies](#) on a broad range of broadband-related activities, including: event planning, after action reviews, and sharing an exercise injects catalog with prompts and questions.

William “Chewy” Chiudioni, from Medical Transport, LLC in Virginia Beach, gave a real-world perspective on his agency’s use of EPTT on FirstNet. Chewy described how EPTT allowed the dispatch staff to communicate with hospitals and ambulance crews during 50,000+ transports last year around the Commonwealth.

Finally, **Michael Newburn**, Regional Director for AT&T FirstNet, led a PTT discussion about how agencies can expand coverage and capacity by integrating EPTT or FNPTT with their land mobile radio (LMR) networks. Mike explained the key differentiators between EPTT and FNPTT, including that FNPTT is built to 3GPP Mission Critical Push-to-Talk (MCPTT) standards, built into the FirstNet Core, and engineered to provide geo-redundancy, high availability, and low latency. Participants learned that FNPTT traffic has the highest priority level on FirstNet and how mutual aid requests can be added to talk groups.

AT&T also gave an update about recent network improvements in Virginia that have increased reliability, coverage, and overall performance in the Commonwealth.

The FirstNet Authority appreciates the opportunity to work closely with Virginia's public safety community and looks forward to our continued collaboration to advance emergency communications.

Submissions for FirstNet Board Open

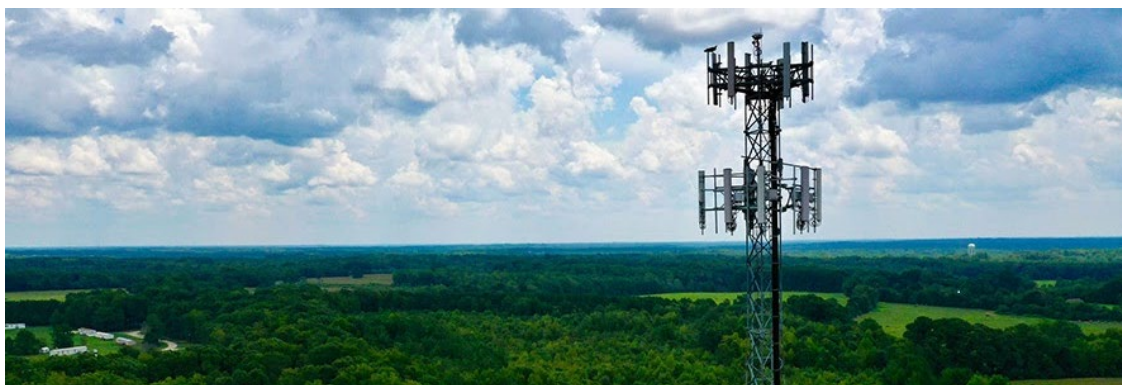
The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is seeking **candidates for the FirstNet Board**. Appointments will be made by the Secretary of Commerce by January 2021. NTIA will seek a diverse candidate pool that will collectively represent the interests of public safety and industry.

FIRSTNET IN ACTION



Building meaningful public safety partnerships - one engagement at a time

The **FirstNet Authority Public Safety Advocacy team** is engaging with public safety to better understand the operational and technical needs of first responders. These engagements give the public safety community important information on the network, the FirstNet Authority Roadmap, and the many resources available for public safety operations.



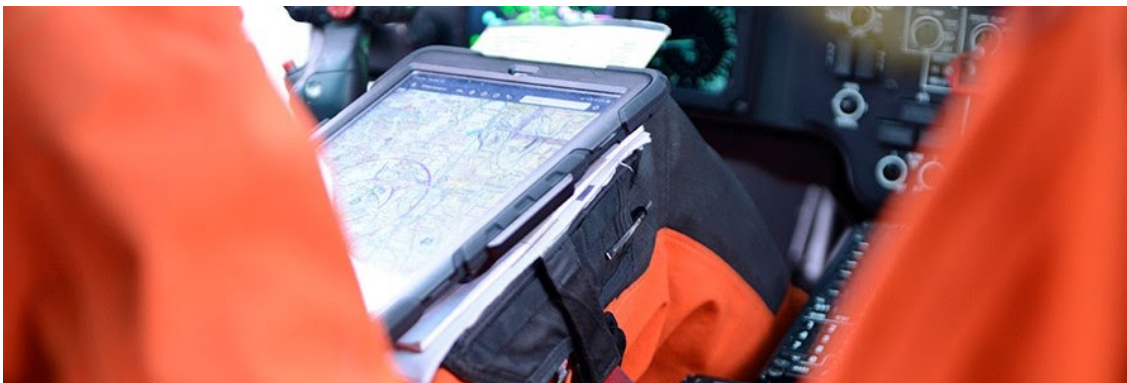
FirstNet cell sites launch in Maryland, Mississippi, and Georgia to support public safety

First Responders in **Georgia, Maryland, and Mississippi** are getting a major boost in their wireless communications with the addition of new, purpose-built FirstNet cell sites. This new infrastructure is a part of the FirstNet network expansion that is bringing increased coverage, capacity, and capabilities for public safety.



Public safety in Chesapeake, Virginia relies on FirstNet for any emergency

Bobby Gelormine, the Senior Planner for the **Chesapeake Fire Department's Office of Emergency Management**, helps the city plan for everything from hurricanes and flooding to terrorism and other man-made disasters. Being in a constant state of readiness means that Gelormine and his colleagues rely on FirstNet to provide reliable communications, no matter the emergencies they face.



U.S. Coast Guard is "Always Ready" with FirstNet

The **U.S. Coast Guard** acts as a key part of our nation's maritime safety, supporting a wide range of missions—from search and rescue to counter-drug operations. The Coast Guard has equipped more than 1,300 pilots and aircrew with FirstNet-enabled devices to aid in day-to-day operations as well as during major events and incidents, such as Fleet Week and the Super Bowl.



FirstNet: Meeting the needs of a Texas rural emergency medical service

Sacred Cross EMS provides EMS and emergency and non-emergency ambulance transport services across North and West Texas. Many of the areas that the company services are rural, and cellular coverage is traditionally sparse. With the help of FirstNet, Sacred Cross is able to communicate among crews, with hospitals, and with dispatch to provide better patient care in these remote areas during everyday incidents and planned events.

FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

Regional Coverage

Berne AT&T site brings 4G LTE and Band 14 to first responders and subscribers

The Altamont Enterprise Hilltown, NY, Sept. 22

Digital radios, aviation division part of Smith's five year plan for WCSO

Daily Mountain Eagle, OH, Sept. 26

National Coverage

AT&T to provide 5G, networking for three Air Force bases

RCR Wireless News, Sept. 23

FirstNet One LTE blimp used for first time in aftermath of Hurricane Laura

Urgent Communications, Sept. 22

How a public safety system became a Covid lifeline

Politico, Sept. 30

BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET



FirstNet Authority
@FirstNetGov

As we close out [#NationalPreparednessMonth](#), learn how emergency managers are integrating [#FirstNet](#) into daily operations and how [@IAEM](#) is working with the FirstNet Authority to provide input on issues that are essential to emergency managers.
firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/... [#BeReady](#)



FirstNet Authority
@FirstNetGov

"Over 450 times, public safety [#FirstNet](#) subscribers have turned to the [@FirstNet](#) Response Ops Group to provide support for emergencies/planned events this year. Hurricanes, fires & COVID-19 have shown the true benefit and power of this capability."
-[#FirstNetAuthority](#) [@jrbratch](#)





#WeServeYou – Learn how the **#FirstNetAuthority** is working with first responders to assess public safety broadband successes/challenges following an event or incident. Get the details in our latest fact sheet: firstnet.gov/sites/default/... **#WeServeYou**



FirstNet Authority Retweeted



As **#FirstResponders** battle fires, hurricanes, and a global pandemic, they have access to a network designed to always stay connected. **@chiefcrawford** explains how **#FirstNet** is a game-changer for **#PublicSafety**: firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/...



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.

