

## THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | NOVEMBER 16, 2020



[Featured Activities](#) | [FirstNet in Action](#) | [FirstNet in the News](#) | [Social](#)

## FEATURED ENGAGEMENT

### FirstNet Authority hosts fall webinar for North Dakota

On November 12, the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) hosted a FirstNet Update Webinar for the State of North Dakota. We discussed the benefits and capabilities of FirstNet and the network's continued expansion across the state.

Chief Executive Officer **Edward Parkinson** and Executive Director of Public Safety Engagement **David Buchanan** from the FirstNet Authority gave welcoming remarks commending North Dakota's public safety agencies for being at the forefront of delivering advanced emergency communication services to North Dakota's first responders. Ed and Dave also encouraged participants to [share their FirstNet experience](#) – this feedback ensures that the network will continue to meet public safety's current and future operational needs.

More than 100 participants tuned in to the virtual engagement. FirstNet Authority staff were joined by **Darin Anderson**, public safety project manager for the North Dakota's Information Technology Department, to facilitate the conversation and answer questions throughout the event.

AT&T's **Doug Penniston** updated the group about FirstNet progress in North Dakota, including: Band 14 coverage, new AT&T commercial sites, deployable access, and FirstNet Assist and Subscriber Paid programs. Doug also reported on recent network improvements in North Dakota that brought increased coverage and capacity to rural parts of the state.

Special guest **Kelly Dignin**, the Indiana Integrated Public Safety Commission executive director, shared her agency's experience integrating the statewide radio system with [expanded LTE capabilities](#) for Indiana's first responders. Since the commission began relying on FirstNet for enhanced coverage, Kelly noted significant cost savings and expanded capabilities for emergency response, including redundancy for the statewide radio system. Using schools and firegrounds as examples, Kelly detailed scenarios that demonstrated how integrated LMR-LTE systems connected to WiFi can extend coverage areas and enhance communications and safety.

**David Cook**, senior public safety advisor for the FirstNet Authority, and **Mike Barney**, AT&T FirstNet mission critical solutions team regional director, presented an update on the High-Powered User Equipment (HPUE) program. HPUE is available to FirstNet users as vehicle-mounted solutions to provide additional range and coverage in rural or other hard-to-reach places, such as during search and rescue missions and wildland fires, or to provide stronger

building penetration in urban areas.

The FirstNet Authority thanks the North Dakota Information Technology Department for partnering with us to connect with the state's public safety community, and public safety from across the state for joining the discussion.

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## Join us for a webinar on 2020 Updates to the FirstNet Authority Roadmap

The First Responder Network Authority will host two Roadmap Update webinars on November 18 and December 1 of 2020. FirstNet Authority staff and leadership will outline the data-driven approach to the Roadmap update and discuss updates to the Roadmap priorities.

[Register Now](#)

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## FIRSTNET IN ACTION



## FirstNet-enabled drones enhance situational awareness during volcano eruption

A research team from Texas A&M University traveled to Hawaii when the Kilauea volcano erupted in 2018. Using **small drones and the FirstNet network**, they live-streamed the lava flow to the emergency operations center more than 30 miles away. FirstNet provided the connection and bandwidth needed to share quality footage in real time, enabling first responders to quickly plan and respond to impending dangers.

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## Tribal nations respond to coronavirus with help from FirstNet

First responders in tribal nations are tackling the COVID-19 health crisis with dedication and innovation, and many are turning to technology solutions to enhance their operations. Tribal nations like the [Colville Tribes in Washington](#) have gotten a boost in coverage from FirstNet at testing sites and emergency operation centers.

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## FirstNet Network expands across Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Virginia, and Illinois to advance public safety communications

First Responders in [Pennsylvania](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Virginia](#), and [Illinois](#) 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.

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## Episode 45: FirstNet and LMR: Bringing connectivity to first responders in Iowa's 99 counties.

The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS) Board, led by Board Chair Tom Lampe, was formed in 2007 to create and manage the statewide land mobile radio system known as ISICS. Coupled with the buildout of FirstNet, ISICS has given first responders across Iowa's 99 counties access to [reliable, redundant](#)

**communications.** The LMR and LTE systems have played critical roles in day-to-day response as well as major incidents, including the 2020 derecho storms and a recent missing children's case.

## FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

*Regional Coverage*

**KDOT uses drones for disaster response**

WIBW-TV, November 4

*National Coverage*

**Mission-critical services, coverage options highlighted in FirstNet Authority Roadmap update**

Urgent Communications, November 5

**IT Infrastructure Bringing DOD's public safety communications into the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

Defense Systems, November 3

## BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET

 **CO-LABS**  
@ColoradoCOLABS

#STEMDay Powerful research to help with crucial #publicsafety communication #technology options at the @FirstNetGov #research and #innovation labs in #Boulder! #sciencematters #FirstNet

 **FirstNet Authority** @FirstNetGov · Nov 8

On this #STEMDay/#STEAMDay, take a virtual tour of our Innovation and Test Lab and see how we test features important to #publicsafety.

Learn more: [firstnet.gov/network/innova...](https://firstnet.gov/network/innova...)



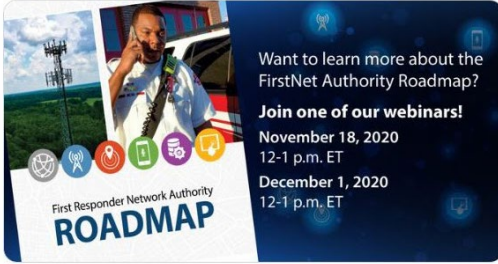
 **FirstNet Authority**  
@FirstNetGov

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's annual balloon fest attracts tens of thousands of spectators. Find out how @FirstNet helped #tribal first responders stay connected at the 2018 and 2019 festivals, held in Shawnee, #Oklahoma. [firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/...](https://firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/...) #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth





We are hosting two webinars to discuss our updated [#FirstNetAuthority](#) Roadmap! Join us next Wed, Nov 18 or Tues, Dec 1 at 12 p.m. ET to learn about our data-driven approach to the Roadmap and the tech we're focusing on as we look to the future: [surveyMonkey.com/r/FRNARoadmap2...](https://surveyMonkey.com/r/FRNARoadmap2...)



DYK? [@FirstNet](#) is available to an extended community that's called upon to support first responders during an emergency or its aftermath. These extended primary users can include education, transportation and utilities. Learn more in this video and at [firstnet.gov/public-safety/...](https://firstnet.gov/public-safety/)

**FirstNet, Built with AT&T** @FirstNet - Nov 10  
 Apollo Towing Service in Corpus Christi, TX, needed more reliable communications with the local and regional first responders it supports. Watch to see how FirstNet has helped Apollo support public safety and serve the community. [my.firstnet.com/eacb673e](https://my.firstnet.com/eacb673e)

The FirstNet Authority 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.

