

THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | JANUARY 25, 2021



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FEATURED ENGAGEMENT

FirstNet Authority Hosts Webinar on Mission-Critical Technology

Last week, the FirstNet Authority hosted a webinar called “Are You Mission Ready for Smart Public Safety Response?” Over 150 public safety stakeholders tuned in to learn more about FirstNet mission critical services and the real-world experiences of FirstNet network users.

Key takeaways of the event included:

FirstNet augments existing systems. AT&T’s **Tracey McElvaney** discussed how FirstNet supported emergency response during last year’s pandemic and a series of extreme weather events. Throughout 2020, public safety agencies used FirstNet with their existing technologies to expand emergency communication capabilities during these challenges. Some of the ways that FirstNet supported public safety operations included:

- augmenting land mobile radio (LMR) coverage and providing backhaul,
- providing reliable back up connectivity for emergency communications centers and mobile command centers, and
- relying on Band 14 to support broadband-dependent telemedicine services.

For **T.J. Martin**, Radio Communication Coordinator for the **Parma Fire Department in Ohio**, FirstNet gave local firefighters the ability to integrate their technologies with the network’s Band 14 prioritized service. In turn, FirstNet helped the department expand their range of existing services, including: integrating the network’s LTE service into their existing radio system, installing Wi-Fi routers in ambulances to expand pre-hospital communication, and extending mission-critical capabilities to incident commanders in the field. “A lot of people think that the FirstNet-AT&T platform is just another cell phone service – and it’s so much more than that. The possibilities of this platform are virtually endless – don’t be afraid to try them,” said Martin.

FirstNet Users Share Experience Demonstrating Network’s Mission Critical Services

Brian Nelson, technology specialist for Illinois’ **Rock Island County**, shared his experience demonstrating FirstNet’s High-Power User Equipment (HPUE) in the Loud Thunder Forest Preserve. Without nearby towers to support communications, Rock Island County used HPUE equipment to bridge coverage gaps throughout the 1480-acre park to support emergency operations during peak summer months. “HPUEs came in handy for us in the trial, so

we are looking to expand upon it and add this permanently to vehicles, command buses, etc.,” said Nelson. “We were able to connect in rural areas and communicate as if we were in our metro service area.”

Additionally, Rock Island County relied on FirstNet’s LTE service after a series of derecho storms hit the Midwest last summer. These storms tested local infrastructure, damaging LMR capabilities and impacting the ability of first responders to communicate over their LMR systems. With several responders in the area trialing FirstNet Push-to-Talk, they turned to their ruggedized demo-devices to communicate with the network’s LTE service when the LMR technology could not connect. In the end, public safety experienced a “real world” situation during the demonstration showing the value of a dual LTE-LMR solution.

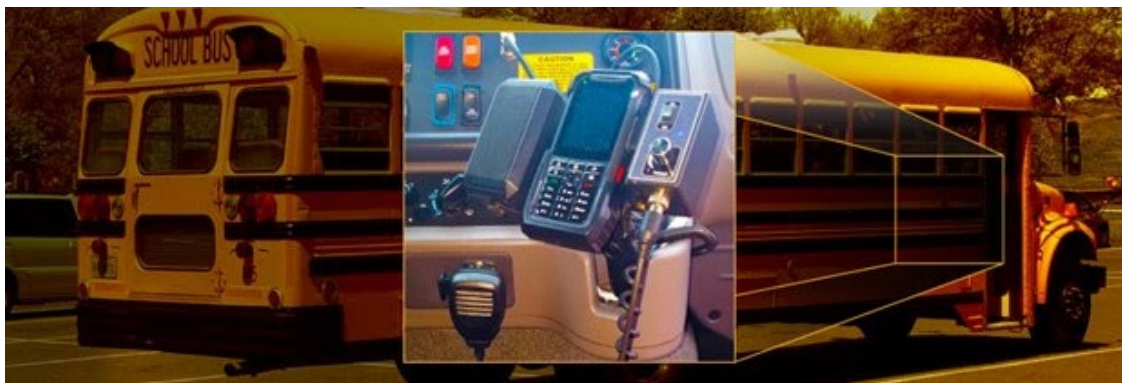
To learn how to organize an engagement, contact your dedicated FirstNet Authority **Public Safety Advisor**.



Join our team as Chief Market Engagement Officer

The FirstNet Authority is looking for a candidate to lead the FirstNet Authority’s nation-wide engagement programs as **Chief Market Engagement Officer**. In this role, the incumbent serves as a member of the senior leadership team, responsible for programs designed to obtain and deliver critical insights from key stakeholders into interrelated programs and processes, facilitating successful accomplishment of FirstNet Authority Strategic Plan objectives.

FIRSTNET IN ACTION



FirstNet keeps students safe on school buses

Buses taking students to and from schools in Carroll County, Maryland are now equipped with FirstNet. With these advanced communication capabilities, the fleet can stay in touch with school headquarters at all times, enhancing the safety and security of students.

Read more in [our blog on this innovative technology](#).



Connecting Green Bay Law Enforcement On and Off the Field

The Green Bay Police Department is the main law enforcement agency for the Green Bay Packers football games. Even during big plays when network congestion is the highest, FirstNet gives them faster speeds, better data exchanges, and clearer calls. FirstNet has also made a difference for Green Bay police outside the stadium, like when they tracked a fleeing shooting suspect.

Discover how this connectivity makes a difference in this [Green Bay blog](#).



FirstNet Powers the Future of Emergency Management

FirstNet is pushing the envelope for public safety communications, opening up new capabilities for emergency managers and the first responders they work with. Through real-time data sharing, tools like the Advanced Network Status Tool, and advances in 5G, FirstNet is shaping the future of emergency management.

Our blog on the [future of emergency management](#) highlights how emergency managers are taking advantage of advanced technology.



Tech Talk: December 7-14, 2020 3GPP Plenary Meetings Recap

At the December 2020 3GPP Plenary meetings, there was continued momentum with Release 17 and mission critical features, including continued inclusion and clarification of 5G direct mode and broadcast mode communications. Many public safety agencies from across the globe co-signed two contributions authored and led by the FirstNet Authority to emphasize the importance of these features.

Learn more in our latest [Tech Talk blog](#).



FirstNet Network Advances Public Safety Capabilities

The FirstNet Network Advances Public Safety Communication Capabilities

First responders in [North Carolina](#) 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.

Read more about the benefits for first responders in [Mitchell](#) and [Transylvania](#) counties.



FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

Regional Coverage

Arlington Emergency Communications Center Leads Nation in Remote Call-Taking, Dispatching, & Supervision

Arlingtonva.us, January 13

AT&T tower at Frontier Park increases area internet speed

Prosper Press, January 15

National Coverage

Carroll County secures real-time communications with GPSLockbox and FirstNet

School Bus Ride, January 7

Virginia County Deploys Remote 9-1-1 Call-Taking Capability

MissionCritical Communications, January 14

BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET



FirstNet Authority
@FirstNetGov

.@FirstNet is supporting #firstresponders as they respond to COVID-19. Check out [FirstNet.gov/pandemic](https://www.firstnet.gov/pandemic) to see how agencies are using #FirstNet to connect mobile testing sites, enable remote dispatching, and more.



FirstNet Authority Retweeted



DHS S&T
@dhsscitech

.@dhsscitech and @NASAJPL conducted successful tests of a technology that will help first responders geo-locate their colleagues in emergency scenarios last month in Los Angeles. Learn more about POINTER technology here: bit.ly/3ouLMai



FirstNet Authority Retweeted



FirstNet, Built with AT&T
@FirstNet

Inclement weather or pandemics -- we're working to keep you covered. #FirstNet has your back helping you stay connected while the country battles COVID-19.



D. Jeremy DeMar, M.A., CPE, ENP
@djeremydemar

Incredible outside of the box thinking by @AlexandriaVAGov Department of Emergency Communications #progressive #forwardthinking RIP Bob

WATCH: Hear how the @AlexandriaVAGov Dept. of Emergency and Customer Communications tested remote 9-1-1 call taking and how @FirstNet is providing emergency telecommunicators a way to safely perform their jobs during the pandemic.



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.

