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## THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | FEBRUARY 8, 2021



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## FEATURED ENGAGEMENT

### How FirstNet bolsters medical communications

Many FirstNet subscribers use the wireless network to meet today's mobile healthcare challenges. A recent FirstNet Authority webinar featured **three Ohio healthcare agencies** that relied on FirstNet to support the COVID-19 pandemic response with the network's advanced communication capabilities.

To open, FirstNet Authority Board Member **Paul Patrick** discussed the importance of the medical community leveraging FirstNet to help responders communicate during the pandemic response.

### Three Ohio healthcare agencies use FirstNet experiences during the pandemic response

**Kettering Health Network.** When Kettering Health Network participated in a pandemic response program to run a large-scale COVID testing operation, Emergency Disaster Preparedness Manager **Chris Kyer** noticed that slow network speeds from the existing LTE service hindered the ability to communicate and slowed down the testing operation. Recalling a successful FirstNet demo in Indiana, Kyer contacted FirstNet-AT&T to discuss testing a network solution to improve emergency communication in and around the testing site. "The AT&T-FirstNet rep immediately came with a solution to test, and we quickly realized that it more than doubled the speed of the operation in terms of software going back to the server, etc." The experience convinced Kyer to switch to using FirstNet push-to-talk devices and connect their entire dispatch fleet to the network.

**Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management.** Cuyahoga County Emergency Management Agency's **Adam Griffith** shared his experience relying on FirstNet during the county's large-scale vaccine distribution operation. Using the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds to situate the three-to-four car lane vaccination distribution point, hotspots running on FirstNet supported mobile communications enabling five camera trailers to connect with the emergency operations center. "By powering them with FirstNet Nighthawk hotspots, that gave us the seamless view into the EOC," recalled Griffith.

**Meigs County EMS/911.** When the pandemic hit last spring, EMS/911 Meigs County Director **Robert Jacks'** small agency located in rural southeastern Ohio relied on FirstNet to keep their emergency operations running smoothly. With nearly a third of his team quarantined from contracting the COVID-19 virus, FirstNet supplied the connection that made it possible for the agency to work remotely – taking urgent calls and gathering essential information – that kept the county's 9-1-1 and dispatch service operational for the area's 24,000 residents.

To stay updated on FirstNet developments, visit the [First Responder Network Authority](#) website. To learn how to organize an engagement in your state, contact your local FirstNet Authority [Public Safety Advisor](#).

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## Participate in the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Tribal Consultations

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Department of Commerce, is initiating **Tribal Consultation on the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program**. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260 (Act), directs funding to NTIA for mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating the digital divide across Indian Country within short time frames. Tribal leaders are invited to participate in the National Tribal Consultation to provide their advice and insights as NTIA staff are working through the critical issues related to the program.

Take part in one of the upcoming National Tribal Consultation sessions:

Wednesday, February 10 | 1-5 p.m. ET

[Register here for the Wednesday session](#)

Dial-in number: +1 (562) 247-8321

Attendee code: 470-923-858

Friday, February 12 | 1-5 p.m. ET

[Register here for the Friday session](#)

Dial-in number: +1 (562) 247-8422

Attendee code: 564-371-049



## FIRSTNET IN ACTION



## FirstNet Authority Meets with Public Safety to Inform Review of Nashville Bombing

The FirstNet Authority continues its after action review of the bombing of an AT&T building in Nashville, Tennessee,

meeting last week with public safety officials and FirstNet subscribers in states that were affected by the service outage.

Read more in the latest [update on the Nashville Bombing](#).

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### **APWA's Top Five Trending Technologies in 2021: How FirstNet is expanding to support connective technologies**

The American Public Works Association (APWA) released its Top Five Trending Technologies of 2021 survey and report announcing promising technologies that best support public works agencies. APWA reached out to the FirstNet Authority to discuss small cell/5G technologies' growing impact on FirstNet's vision to expand and enhance coverage into communities located in urban, rural, or other hard to reach areas.

Learn more in [this blog on small cell/5G technology](#).

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### **FirstNet making a difference for Loudoun Sheriff's Office on a daily basis**

FirstNet is making a difference for law enforcement agencies across the nation—in both daily operations and at big events, whether planned or unplanned. In northern Virginia, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office relies on FirstNet for everyday use, emergencies, and large events. They also partner with other FirstNet users in the region to collaborate on how to best use the network.

Discover the ways deputies rely on FirstNet in [our blog on the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office](#).

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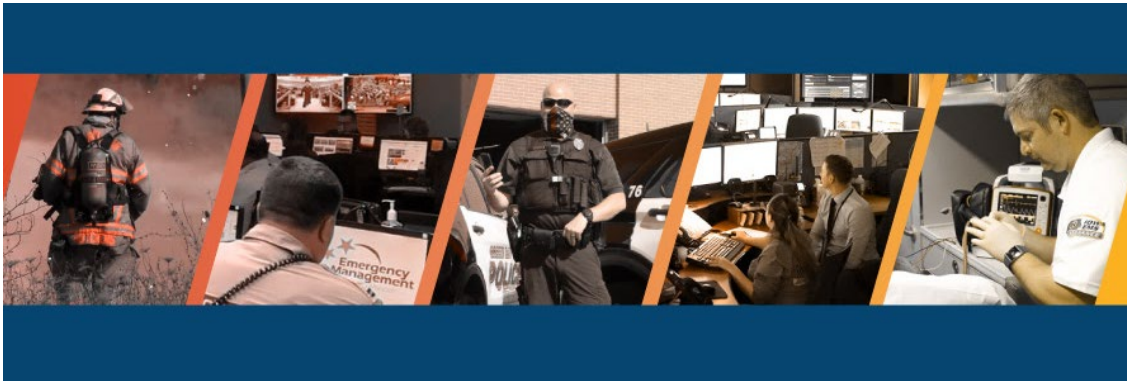




## FirstNet Network Adoption Grows, New Mission-Ready Solutions Launch

AT&T recently announced that the FirstNet network now has more than 1.9 million connections serving more than 15,000 public safety agencies. In addition, AT&T launched four new mission-driven solutions for exclusive use by FirstNet subscribers: FirstNet® MegaRange, Z-Axis, Compact Rapid Deployables, and Land-Mobile-Radio (LMR) interoperability for FirstNet Push-to-Talk (PTT).

Edward Parkinson, CEO of the FirstNet Authority discusses FirstNet's progress and what these new technologies mean for public safety in [this press release highlighting the network developments](#).



## The FirstNet Authority Winter Newsletters

The FirstNet Authority newsletters hit inboxes last week. Check out the winter editions linked below and [subscribe to get future editions](#) with an in-depth look into topics important to your discipline.

**EMS Take with Brent Williams:** EMS physician, Dr. Lenny Weiss, shares how FirstNet can help out-of-hospital care. Dr. Weiss serves on the Public Safety Advisory Committee as a delegate from the National Association of EMS Physicians, or NAEMSP.

**Law Enforcement Take with Harry Markley:** FirstNet Push-to-Talk was released in 2020 as the first-ever mission-critical push-to-talk service in the U.S. It offers public safety features unique to FirstNet, and law enforcement agencies are now putting it to the test.

**Fire Services Take with Gary McCarraher:** Three new FirstNet tools are especially helpful for the fire service: integration with land mobile radios, mission-critical push-to-talk, and high-power user equipment. These tools are helping the fire service be ready no matter where the mission takes them.

**9-1-1 Take with John Hunt:** The FirstNet Authority hosted a nationwide webinar to share the inventive ways FirstNet is supporting emergency communication centers and to better understand how they communicate with the public and responders in the field.

**Emergency Management Take with Bruce Fitzgerald:** As the only network built for public safety, FirstNet offers unique features to emergency managers. One example is FirstNet's Uplift Request Tool, which allows you to

elevate users during incidents, giving them the highest priority on the network.

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## **FirstNet Network Advances Public Safety Communications Capabilities**

First responders across the country 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 [Oklahoma](#), [Arkansas](#), and [Moore](#) and [Currituck](#) Counties in North Carolina.

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## **FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS**

### *Regional Coverage*

#### **Crow Tribe receives close to \$25,000 in PPE donation**

ABC FOC Montana, January 25

#### **Amid security concerns, former police officer presents emergency app to House committee**

The Missouri Times, January 28

#### **Greene County gets boost in wireless connectivity**

My Wabash Valley, January 26

### *National Coverage*

**AT&T unveils FirstNet innovations, including HPUE, vertical location, deployable offerings** Urgent Communications, January 26

#### **FirstNet Reaches More Than 1.9M Connections, Use by 15,000 Agencies**

MissionCritical Communications, February 2

#### **AT&T Debuts Radio-to-Smartphone and More for FirstNet Users**

Government Technology, January 26

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## **BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET**



FirstNet Authority  
@FirstNetGov

Save the Date! The #FirstNetAuthority Board will hold its first quarterly meeting of 2021 on Wed., Feb 10 at 11 a.m. ET. Join us via teleconference to get the latest updates on stakeholder engagement, technology, and more! [firstnet.gov/newsroom/event...](https://firstnet.gov/newsroom/event...)



FirstNet Authority Retweeted



Texas A&M Internet2 Technology Evaluation Center  
@ITEC\_TAMU

Texas A&M ITEC requests submissions applicable to emergency and disaster response. [bit.ly/Interop21-CFI](https://bit.ly/Interop21-CFI)  
@RadioResourceMG  
#interoperability #NG911 #PSBN #MCPTT #publicsafety #criticalcommunications #missioncritical



FirstNet Authority Retweeted



FirstNet, Built with AT&T  
@FirstNet

For years, the police department in Portsmouth, Ohio, struggled with connectivity and customer service under a commercial carrier. Watch to learn how communications are now that this police chief brought her department onto FirstNet:  
[my.firstnet.com/ac8b779c](https://my.firstnet.com/ac8b779c)



FirstNet Authority  
@FirstNetGov

From remote call-taking during the pandemic to tactical and mobile dispatch during major events, @FirstNet supports emergency communications centers across the country. Check out [FirstNet.gov/911](https://FirstNet.gov/911) to see #FirstNetinAction in Washington, D.C.; #Ohio; #Virginia; and #Iowa.



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.

