

THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | MARCH 9, 2021



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

FEATURED ENGAGEMENT

Subscriber Paid Services Webinar Highlights Key Benefits

With FirstNet's Subscriber Paid Services program, first responders everywhere can access FirstNet's critical capabilities with their own devices. On the FirstNet Authority's recent webinar about subscriber paid services, **FirstNet Authority Vice Board Chair Chief Richard Carrizzo** shared that it was his experience inside a large Nashville venue without network coverage that convinced him to sign up for the program. While attending a concert a few years ago, the Chief received an automated text page from dispatch about an active shooter incident near his hometown. When he tried accessing the local network to receive detailed information, he had "zero service whatsoever." He added, "After returning home, I got on the FirstNet system through the subscriber-based service."

Eligibility for the FirstNet Subscriber Paid Program

The Subscriber Paid Program lets all verified **first responders sign up for FirstNet service** under a personal account. This means that both **career and volunteer first responders gain access to the same critical capabilities of FirstNet**, including: 24/7/365 network priority and preemption service for voice, text, and data.

Jefferson Township Fire Department, Ohio. For **Chief Bradford Shull**, who serves the Jefferson Township Fire Department in **Blacklick, Ohio**, FirstNet's Subscriber Paid Service supported his agency during the COVID-19 pandemic response. When the Jefferson Township Fire Department was asked to set up support centers for 18 area fire departments, they discovered the location did not have internet service. Thanks to the Subscriber Paid Service program, Shull and his team turned to their FirstNet-devices to provide mobile hotspots through FirstNet to sustain communication during the operation.

Wayzata Police Department, Minnesota. Long-time FirstNet supporter **Chief Michael Risvold** relies on FirstNet to serve and protect the City of Wayzata's 5,000 residents. With Wayzata situated on the shores Lake Minnetonka, the city often hosts large concerts and festivals that can attract up to 50,000 visitors from nearby communities. During these large events when the area networks become congested from the public sending texts, images, and videos to friends and family, Chief Risvold turns to what he describes as his "FirstNet insurance policy" for quality and reliable service assessable from his FirstNet-enabled device. He noted, "Our agency converted all of our devices to FirstNet for the benefits of first responder priority, the ruthless preemption, the uplift capability, and FirstNet's Band 14's capacity for first responders is simply much greater."

The FirstNet Authority thanks all guest speakers from the public safety community for sharing their FirstNet experience. For more information about the FirstNet Subscriber Paid Service, contact FirstNet Customer

Care's **dedicated subscriber paid point of contact**. To learn how to organize an engagement in your state, contact your local FirstNet Authority **Public Safety Advisor**.



Recruitment of FirstNet Board Members

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Department of Commerce, issued a **Notice of Recruitment** to initiate the annual process to seek interest from individuals who would like to serve on the FirstNet Authority Board of Directors. To be considered for the calendar year 2021 appointments, expressions of interest must be electronically transmitted on or before April 5, 2021.

SELECT UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

Upcoming Webinars

West Texas Regional Webinar

Guam FirstNet Update

FirstNet Brings Internet to the Woods: Command and Control During Wildfires Webinar

March 17

March 24

April 8

FIRSTNET IN ACTION



Annual Report to Congress Demonstrates How FirstNet is “Rising to the Challenge”

Every year, the FirstNet Authority provides a report to Congress outlining the activities, operations, financial condition, and accomplishments from the previous fiscal year.

Find out what we accomplished in FY2020 in [this blog summarizing the annual report](#).



FirstNet Authority Continues Trend of Clean Financial Audit

For the eighth consecutive year, the FirstNet Authority received an unmodified, or clean, audit opinion on its financial statements for fiscal year (FY) 2020. The audit identified zero material weaknesses, zero significant deficiencies, and zero management-level control deficiencies. The FirstNet Authority continues to exercise sound stewardship over our financial resources in the interest of public safety’s network.

Check out [this blog on the financial audit](#) to learn more about our commitment to sound financial practices.



New FirstNet Technologies are “Game Changers” for Public Safety

Nine years after the passage of the legislation that created FirstNet, retired Police Chief Harlin McEwen reflects on the evolution of FirstNet and how the network is benefiting first responders today. Harlin also talks about the future of

FirstNet and how new technologies, such as high-powered user equipment and Z-axis features, are “game changers” for public safety.

Tune in to the latest episode of the Public Safety First podcast to hear how FirstNet technologies are changing the emergency communication landscape for responders.



PSAC Profile: National Association of State EMS Officials

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers respond to life-threatening emergencies, serve as part of the community healthcare team, and help safeguard communities nationwide. The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) is a nationwide organization that develops EMS policy, acts as a voice for the EMS community, and provides information and research on EMS-related issues. As a member of the FirstNet Authority’s Public Safety Advisory Committee, NASEMSO provides feedback on issues that are important to state EMS officials.

Learn more about the important role NASEMSO plays in this [PSAC Profile blog](#).



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 [Idaho](#), [Minnesota](#), and [New Jersey](#).



Regional Coverage

AT&T boosts network speeds for Cherokee

Smoky Mountain News, March 2

AT&T Boosts Mobile Broadband Connectivity in Erie, Venango Counties

Erie News Now, February 22

National Coverage

AT&T says FirstNet Band 14 buildout more than 90% done, adoption tops 2 million connections

Urgent Communications, February 22

FirstNet Buildout Reaches 90% of Band 14 Target, Now Covers 2.71M Square Miles

MissionCritical Communications, February 23

Data: FirstNet's Subscription Base Grew 67% Last Year

Government Technology, February 22

BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET

FirstNet Authority Retweeted



U.S. Commerce Dept.
@CommerceGov

The Cameron Peak Fire burned nearly 209,000 acres in Colorado in late 2020, making it the largest wildfire in state history. Learn how @FirstNetGov helped keep firefighters connected as they fought the blaze in their recent podcast: firstnet.gov/newsroom/podca...



FirstNet Authority
@FirstNetGov

When the @USNavy sent two medical ships to NYC and Los Angeles to treat COVID-19 patients, @FirstNet provided critical connections for #publicsafety and #healthcare workers on the ships. Discover how #FirstNet is helping communities respond to COVID-19 at FirstNet.gov/pandemic.



FirstNet Authority
@FirstNetGov

.@FirstNet is designed for EVERY #firstresponder, and the FirstNet Authority is dedicated to ensuring #tribal public safety can take advantage of the network's benefits. See how recent network expansion is aiding #IndianCountry. firstnet.gov/newsroom/press...

It's encouraging to see new infrastructure is extending the reach of FirstNet for tribal communities. For the Nez Perce Tribe, we have worked collaboratively with the FirstNet Authority and AT&T to make sure FirstNet meets the needs of our tribal first responders.

FirstNet.gov/momentum

Danae Wilson
Manager, Nez Perce Tribe
Department of Technology Services
and Chair of the FirstNet Authority's
Tribal Working Group



Preemption is a mission-critical feature that allows @FirstNet public safety subscribers to stay connected during emergencies or events where commercial networks can become congested. Learn more about this unique network feature: firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/...



Preemption on FirstNet

FirstNet, the nationwide public safety broadband network, is designed to meet public safety's critical communications needs. Two key public safety features of FirstNet are priority and preemption.

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.

