THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | APRIL 19, 2021

FEATURED ENGAGEMENT

FirstNet Connects Emergency Management During Wildland Fire Response

As emergency managers turn to FirstNet to prepare communities for disasters, the FirstNet Authority identifies opportunities to hear from public safety about their experience. The FirstNet Authority kicked off an Emergency Management Webinar series with a discussion of command and control during wildfires.

FirstNet Authority Vice Board Chair Richard Carrizzo underscored the importance of understanding how emergency management use FirstNet to support wildfire response operations. While touring the west coast fires last summer, Chief Carrizzo talked to first responders in **California**, **Colorado**, and **Oregon** to learn how FirstNet SatCOLTs were benefiting them – and how they could improve.

Carrizzo noted that firefighters now have access to two additional FirstNet solutions that improve operational efficiently on the fire line – FirstNet's **Compact Rapid Deployable**™ and its **Z-Axis** capability. "Another great thing that's coming out is the new Compact Rapid Deployables that are available and ready for purchase for individual departments," said Carrizzo. "And of course, there's Z-axis, how it's coming to life right now, and how that will make a complete difference with wildland fires." (Want to learn more about Z-axis? Check out our **location services video**.)

Responders use FirstNet during wildland response operations
Berthoud Fire Protection District, Colorado. The **Cameron Peak Fire** burned nearly 209,000 acres in Colorado in late 2020, making it the largest wildfire in state history. Berthoud Fire Protection District firefighter **Don Patterson** and his team **fought the blaze** by deploying a FirstNet SatCOLT and FirstNet-enabled devices loaded with apps and resources that **made their jobs easier** and kept them connected to incident command and their families back home.

US Department of the Interior, Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT) Program. The WFIT management office has been testing options for remote connectivity using FirstNet as an interagency collaboration tool. FirstNet-enabled equipment and services were deployed to three incident management teams in Southern California, in the Southwest, and within the Great Basin. WFIT's Business System Enterprise Architect **Christopher Markle** shared the results of a preliminary user survey showing that about two-thirds of the incident management team members reported that FirstNet, "enhanced their capability, enhanced their access to data services, and they were able to do their jobs in a much more efficient manner." The program will continue to evaluate FirstNet as a reliable and secure solution for firefighters in remote locations without wireless services.

Colorado Department of Public Safety. During last summer's Grizzly Creek Fire in Western **Colorado**, the Colorado Center of Excellence for Advanced Technology Aerial Firefighting (COE) conducted a pilot program to test the Team Awareness Kit (TAK) application. Serving as a geospatial mapping engine, TAK was loaded onto 28 mobile devices connected to FirstNet service. During the 13-day trial, the COE received over 154,000 location reports from firefighters and tested TAK's ability to provide situational awareness, navigation, and data sharing capabilities. The FirstNet signal connected first responders to TAK to assemble a common operating picture by integrating information from sensors, drone feeds to manned aircraft, satellite imagery, and IoT tracking capabilities.

Thank you to our FirstNet users for sharing their experience and feedback using the network to support wildland fire operations. The next webinar in the Emergency Management series will focus on hurricane and tornado response - **sign up for the Emergency Management Take** to receive the announcement via email.

📅 SELECT UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

Upcoming Webinars	Date
Looking Back: The Ultimate Stress Test for FirstNet	April 26
FirstNet Authority Quarterly Board Meeting	May 5

FIRSTNET IN ACTION

Expressing Gratitude for Public Safety Heroes
Every spring, we take time to honor those in emergency communications, the fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and our nation's public servants. Throughout April and May, we celebrate these brave men and women and thank them for their dedication, courage, and sacrifices.

Last week, we recognized the immense contributions emergency telecommunicators make while they protect and serve their communities. As an integral part of the country's public safety services, we are grateful for their service and support.

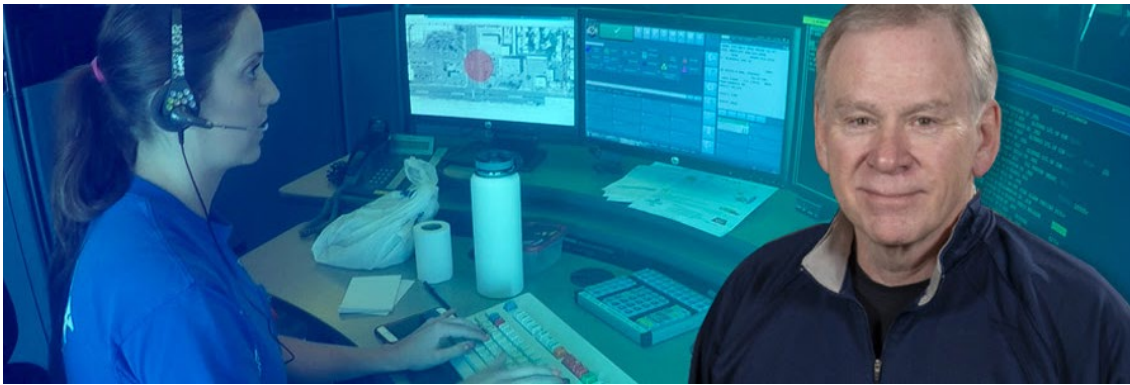Learn about upcoming opportunities to honor public safety in **this blog from FirstNet Authority CEO Ed Parkinson**.

FirstNet Keeps Healthcare Coalition Connected and Prepared
The Central Virginia Healthcare Coalition (CVHC) is one of six coalitions in the Commonwealth of Virginia and helps its membership plan, train, and respond to incidents and events in the region. FirstNet is supporting communications for CVHC during emergencies, in its response to COVID-19, and in preparation for large events and protests.

Discover how FirstNet keeps healthcare facilities connected in **this blog on the CVHC**.

Meet the Expert: 9-1-1/Emergency Communications Advisor John Hunt Looks to the Future of Dispatching with FirstNet
FirstNet Authority Senior 9-1-1/Emergency Communications Advisor John Hunt spent more than 35 years advancing public safety communications technology. At the FirstNet Authority, he works with emergency communications center personnel to understand how FirstNet can benefit operations and how mobile broadband will complement Next Generation 9-1-1 technologies.

Get to know John Hunt in our latest Meet the Expert **blog** and **video**.

How Broadband Tech Can Enhance K9 Operations

Public safety K9s can be trained for a wide range of services, from search and rescue to bomb and drug detection. These dogs work across urban, rural, wilderness, and disaster settings, and can sometimes end up a mile away from their handler. As technology advances, handlers are exploring ways technology – such as trackers and live-streaming cameras – can enhance K9 operations, keep dogs and handlers safe, and improve situational awareness and mission success.

Listen to the latest episode of the Public Safety First podcast to hear five K9 handlers discuss how mobile broadband and technology would make their jobs safer and more efficient.

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 **Albany** and **Broome** Counties in New York, and **Antrim** and **Conway** Counties in New Hampshire.

FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

Regional Coverage
AT&T rolling out 5G technology for Ohio first responders
News 5 Cleveland, April 2

FirstNet to help first responders in Atlanta
GA Followers, April 5

Eagle County Public Safety Agencies Transform First Responder Communications with FirstNet
WesternSlopeNow.com, April 12

National Coverage
AT&T Launches 5G Service for FirstNet
MissionCritical Communications, April 2

Iowa taps into FirstNet for 911 backup
GCN, April 6

BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET

FirstNet Authority Retweeted

NIST Public Safety Research
@NISTPublicSafeT

Firefighters, we need you! NIST grant awardee @NCState is studying how to design heads-up displays to support first responders. Learn how you can help inform their research: nist.gov/news-events/ne... #UserExperience

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FirstNet Authority ✔
@FirstNetGov

The @R2Network_ platform is now live! The platform will connect public safety officials and entrepreneurs to promote innovation and advance response and resiliency technology. Learn more: r2network.com

R2 NETWORK
The R2 Network is live!
Empowering first responders

FirstNet Authority ✔
@FirstNetGov

WATCH: The Arlington, Virginia Emergency Communications Center takes on the pandemic using @FirstNet for remote call-taking, dispatching, and supervision.

Learn how they're deploying these innovative capabilities: soundcloud.com/user-472553784... #NPSTW2021 @ReadyArlington
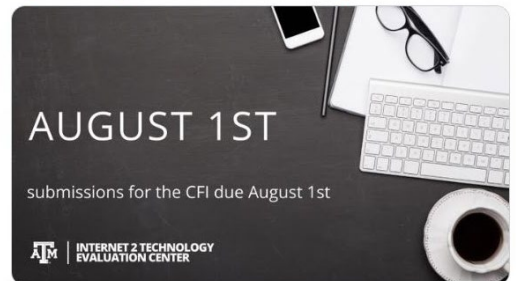
FirstNet and Remote 9-1-1

Arlington County ECC Takes on the Pandemic with Remote Capabilities
The Arlington (Va.) Emergency Communications Center is one of the first in the nation to deploy remote call-taking, dispatching, and supervision capabilities.

FirstNet Authority Retweeted

Texas A&M Internet2 Technology Evaluation Center
@ITEC_TAMU

Deadline Extended: The Call For Innovation is open! More details: itec.tamu.edu/wp-content/upl... #interoperability #NG911 #PSBN #MCPTT #publicsafety #missioncritical #interop21

AUGUST 1ST
submissions for the CFI due August 1st

Aͫ | INTERNET 2 TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION CENTER

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.