



THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | OCTOBER 4, 2021



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FEATURED PUBLIC SAFETY ENGAGEMENT

Nebraska summit highlights FirstNet buildout across the state

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) participated in the Nebraska FirstNet Preparedness, Partnership, and Progress Summit hosted by AT&T and the State of Nebraska. The one-day event focused on how the FirstNet buildout in [Nebraska](#) has transformed the public safety communications landscape for the state. Discussion and presenters highlighted how the improved coverage and capacity provided first responders the most advanced technologies and services during emergencies, daily operations, and training exercises.

Sue Krogman, Nebraska's Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), opened the meeting by welcoming over 65 public safety professionals representing emergency management, fire services, law enforcement, government, and the private sector. Krogman noted that Nebraska's first responders are experiencing enhanced wireless communication services thanks to FirstNet's network expansion.

FirstNet Authority's Lesia Dickson provided a presentation on [FirstNet portable coverage devices](#) and [High-Power User Equipment](#). The AT&T team also delivered an update on the evolution of FirstNet throughout Nebraska, the network's architecture, and a state-specific update about new site builds and Band-14 deployment updates.

The audience heard from two FirstNet users who shared recent experiences on the network. During a presentation by **Sheriff Neil Miller** and **Lieutenant Robert Tubbs** from the [Buffalo County Sheriff's Department](#), the audience heard how FirstNet's seamless connection helps to maintain readiness and situational awareness for deputies throughout the county. As a network subscriber, Buffalo County's patrol cars connect to FirstNet's Band 14 statewide coverage. This enables officers to work more

efficiently by running inquiries remotely and sending vital information to dispatch – saving valuable time in the field.

Police departments and sheriff's offices nationwide are taking advantage of FirstNet offering hands-on demonstrations of network assets, equipment, and devices. Four special units in the Douglas County Sheriff's office tested FirstNet SIM cards in laptops to experience the dedicated connection FirstNet offers in the field.

The FirstNet Authority thanks AT&T and the State of Nebraska for the opportunity to connect with Nebraska's public safety community and looks forward to continuing to give Nebraska's public safety stakeholders a voice in FirstNet's future.



Submit your Nomination for the Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award!

Nominations for the **Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award** are now open. This award honors an individual who has displayed remarkable leadership or made significant contributions in the field of public safety broadband communications. Any sworn or civilian member of public safety is eligible for this award.

To nominate an individual for consideration, please complete the **nomination form**. The nomination process for 2021 will remain open through October 13, 2021. The recipient of the award will be announced at the November 17, 2021 FirstNet Authority Board meeting.

Chief Harlin R. McEwen Award Nomination Form

Please reach out to Kenzie Capece at 202-768-2542 or kenzie.capece@firstnet.gov if you have any questions.



SELECT UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

New York State Sheriffs Association Fall Conference	October 4
PSAC Tribal Working Group Monthly Teleconference	October 5
AT&T Deployable Demonstrations in Riverside, Missouri, and Topeka, Kansas	October 5 - 6

For interest in attendance for any of our webinars, please email Outreach@firstnet.gov.

FIRSTNET IN ACTION



An Overview of FirstNet for Emergency Management

The FirstNet Authority's Emergency Management Community of Practice has developed a resource guide for emergency managers. The guide includes an overview of features and functions that may be used in their daily and emergency response roles. Many of the topics covered in the guide are applicable for coordinating response in the field or when an Emergency Operations Center has been activated.

Learn more about the [Emergency Management Resource Guide](#) from FirstNet Authority's emergency management expert Bruce Fitzgerald.



Three types of FirstNet Authority support for preparedness

The FirstNet Authority provides three types of support to help public safety agencies as they prepare for all hazards: pre-planning support, an exercise inject catalog, and post-incident reviews. These three types of support help agencies understand how to best use FirstNet during disasters or large events, leading to more timely and efficient decision-making, better coordinated response, and well-managed resources and logistics.

Check out our [blog on the three types of FirstNet Authority support available](#) to

see how pre-planning, an exercise inject catalog, and post-incident reviews can help emergency management prepare for disasters, emergencies, and large events.



3 tips to adopting FirstNet

Members of the Mason County Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) in West Virginia often find themselves working in more remote parts of the county. Understanding the importance of remaining connected, DHSEM and other county agencies switched to FirstNet after extensive testing. The county's public safety agencies are now using the network to improve patient care during longer hospital transports and to enhance communications at COVID-19 testing sites.

Discover Mason County DHSEM's three tips to adopting FirstNet in [this blog from FirstNet Authority's Lori Stone](#).



FirstNet Provides Greater Mobility, Cost Savings for Michigan Police

The Grand Rapids Police Department in Michigan is a full-service law enforcement agency serving a largely urban community. Officers with the department began experiencing in-car computers slowing down and losing the ability to access systems and databases due to reduced bandwidth. Since switching to FirstNet, officers can access the software they need throughout the city, giving them greater mobility while providing cost savings to the department.

[Listen to the latest episode](#) of the Public Safety First podcast to hear how FirstNet is helping connect Grand Rapids police officers in the field.



The FirstNet Network advances public safety communication 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 [Fillmore County](#) and [Baudette](#) in Minnesota.



FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

National Coverage

Washington Military Department Selects FirstNet Service

MissionCritical Communications, September 24

FirstNet posts resource guide for emergency managers

GCN, September 27

Regional Coverage

Standing in Support of New Mexico's Hometown Heroes

Catron Courier, September 1

Mike Salaz: Let's encourage buildout of cellular networks in rural Colorado

Loveland Reporter-Herald, September 22

Glenwood Canyon now has emergency cellphone service

Denver Gazette, September 28



BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET

FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov

Join us in welcoming the Mexico Police Department in #Maine as a #FirstNet subscriber! See how FirstNet's enhanced wireless connection will provide Oxford County law enforcement officers with priority and preemption service 24/7/365.
facebook.com/16921451976363...



FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov

Join the FirstNet Authority team as our new Chief Counsel! Learn more about this Senior Executive Service (SES) role and apply by Monday, October 25: usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDet...



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The future of #EMS relies on new tech for better and faster access to health info. Learn about three new EMS technologies that are improving #patientcare in our latest newsletter: mailchi.mp/firstnet/first...



FirstNet Authority Retweeted

Bill Schrier @billschrier

"To build @FirstNet, the nation's public safety network, we have to listen to #FirstResponders. That's the differentiator of @FirstNetGov and others who serve Public Safety. We listen to develop our Roadmap and future directions." @EdPFirstNet at #IWCE2021



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.

