



THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | OCTOBER 18, 2021



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FEATURED PUBLIC SAFETY ENGAGEMENT

PSAC profiles spotlight public safety associations shaping FirstNet

Since its inception, the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) has relied on its Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) for expertise, valuable insights, and advice to guide FirstNet's growth and development.

To ensure the FirstNet network addresses the needs of all public safety users, the PSAC membership includes representatives from all public safety disciplines and a wide variety of associations. By assembling various strike teams and working groups, as well as participating in focus groups, the PSAC gives direct, real-time feedback and input to the FirstNet Authority to enhance the network's features and capabilities.

Our PSAC members play a critical role in shaping the future of the FirstNet network. The FirstNet Authority routinely profiles PSAC members to show how each organization brings a unique perspective to evolving the network and offering a differentiated experience for public safety. Three such member associations are highlighted below.

National Volunteer Fire Council

The **National Volunteer Fire Council** (NVFC) serves as a national voice for volunteer firefighters, EMS, and rescue personnel providing resources and advocacy for volunteer first responders across the nation. **Chief Reid Vaughan** of the Cuba Fire Department in Alabama serves as the NVFC's PSAC representative. The NVFC helped the FirstNet Authority understand the importance of making the network accessible and available to all first responders. Thanks in part to those efforts, volunteers are able to access the network through **subscriber-paid and bring-your-own-device** plans.

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians

The **National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT)** represents all EMS practitioners, including paramedics, EMTs, and other emergency response personnel. **Chief Brian Schaeffer** serves as **NAEMT's** PSAC representative and is the fire chief for the Spokane, Washington Fire Department. EMS has a demonstrated need for technologies that enable them to quickly send advanced diagnostic information and implement advanced treatment modalities. The NAEMT advocated for FirstNet capabilities that give EMS practitioners access to key technologies like up-to-date applications, devices, priority services, and augmented or virtual reality to connect with hospitals to provide faster and better treatment to patients in telehealth or pre-hospital settings.

American Public Works Association

The **American Public Works Association (APWA)** serves as the leading organization representing municipal and county public agencies responsible for over 70% of the U.S. road systems and much of the nation's other public infrastructure. **Philip Mann**, Public Works Director for the City of Gainesville in Florida, represents **APWA** on the PSAC. Public works agencies require an **interoperable communications** network to coordinate with public safety officials and communicate with **broadband-based solutions** that improve the common operating picture and manage resources more efficiently. The FirstNet Authority continues to rely on APWA's expertise for input and support to enhance FirstNet's situational awareness and voice communications capabilities for public works agencies and their partners.

Read **APWA's profile**.

FirstNet's success would not be possible without the PSAC associations' ongoing efforts to support network growth and expansion nationwide. To collaborate with us on a PSAC member organization profile, contact **Kenzie Capece**. Stay updated on the PSAC and FirstNet's progress **on our website**.



SELECT UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

Nebraska APCO/NENA Conference

October 18-19

In-Building Solutions with FirstNet Webinar

October 21

FirstNet Authority PSAC Executive Committee Monthly Teleconference

October 25

FirstNet Authority PSAC Bi-Monthly Webinar: Virtual Lab Tour

October 26

American College of Emergency Physicians

October 25-27

California State Update Meeting

October 26

FirstNet Goes to University

October 27

Southwest Border Communications Working Group In-Person Meeting

October 28-29

Idaho Statewide FirstNet Coverage Webinar

October 28

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



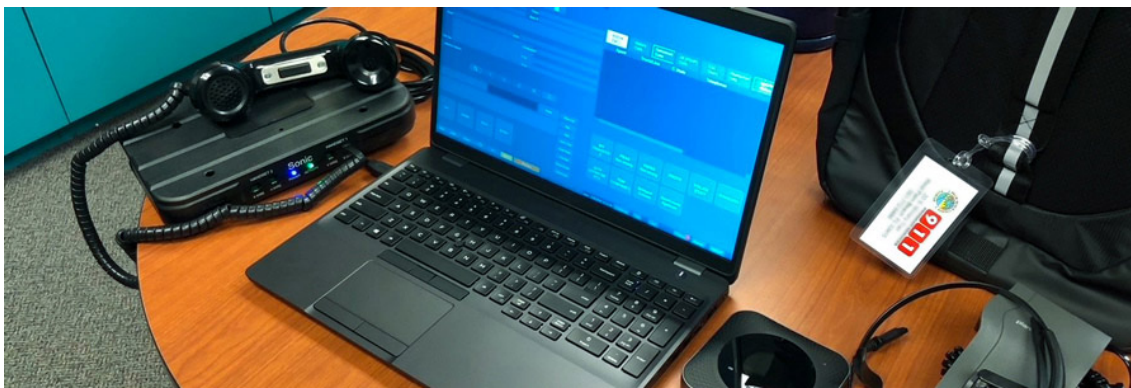
FIRSTNET IN ACTION



FirstNet Authority Supports SMART emergency management practices through planning, preparedness programs

Emergency management agencies are turning to the FirstNet Authority’s planning tools and support mechanisms — including an exercise inject catalog, event pre-planning program, and post incident/event review process — to help emergency managers and other public safety officials integrate broadband into their daily operations and emergency response. Through collaborative efforts with our team, responders across the nation are leveraging these offerings as part of their SMART approach to emergency management.

Learn more in [our blog on the four SMART practices](#) the FirstNet Authority is supporting.



FirstNet becomes a game changer for Palm Beach County 9-1-1 during the Pandemic

Palm Beach County 9-1-1 in Florida answers roughly 10,000 calls per month, making reliable connectivity critical to serving the community. When the pandemic hit, this became even more important as call takers and dispatchers needed remote capabilities to stay safe. The agency is using FirstNet to keep staff connected through SIM cards in routers, on 9-1-1 busses, and in “go-bags” that enable remote capabilities.

Discover how FirstNet is improving communication and helping Palm Beach County remain connected in [this blog from FirstNet Authority’s Bruce Fitzgerald](#).



FirstNet Enables Remote Training, Enhanced Mapping Capabilities for Emergency Management in Pennsylvania

The Indiana County Emergency Management Agency in Pennsylvania is responsible for emergency management in the county and oversees emergency communication operations for the county's public safety agencies. FirstNet provides personnel with connectivity in the most remote parts of the county, and the network enables advanced capabilities for first responders, such as remote training and enhanced location and mapping services.

Check out [this blog on Indiana County](#) to see how FirstNet is supporting responders across disciplines.



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 [Glenwood Canyon](#) in Colorado.



FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

National Coverage

The Firstnet Journey: From 9/11 to Today

By Edward Parkinson, APCO's Public Safety Communications Magazine, September 30

FirstNet, the Dedicated Communications System for First Responders, Is Coming to Air Force Bases

Air Force Magazine, October 5

FirstNet buildout more than 95% complete, AT&T exec says

Urgent Communications, October 5

9/11 anniversary prompts emergency communications examination

EMS1, October 12

Regional Coverage

Local news in brief, Oct. 3

Aspen Daily News Online, October 3



BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET



.@R2Network_ 's latest release – Innovation HQ – provides first responders with a streamlined platform to search for response and resiliency technology. Users can search by category to find solutions that meet their needs. Learn more: r2network.com/our-latest/inn...



See how @FirstNet is helping tribal first responders stay connected across #IndianCountry in this article (via @TribalNetOnline, p. 52): tribalhub.com/magazine/Fall-...



Take a look inside the FirstNet Authority's User Experience Roadmap domain! Discover the ways first responders are interacting with the #FirstNet network and how we're ensuring devices and apps work wherever public safety responds: firstnet.gov/tags/key-techn...



#FirstNetintheNews: When the Dallas Police Department in Georgia needed to transition their secondary dispatch center to a PSAP, they found several options that would cost time and money. See how @FirstNet provided a cost-effective solution (p. 59): gachiefs.com/the-georgia-po...



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.

