



THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | FEBRUARY 22, 2022



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



FEATURED PUBLIC SAFETY ENGAGEMENT

Voices FirstNet at 10: A Decade of Dedication to Public Safety

The tragedies of September 11th revealed fundamental problems with the communication systems used by our nation's first responders. In the years following the terrorist attacks, public safety from across all disciplines, including 9-1-1, EMS, fire service, and law enforcement, joined together to advocate for their own high-speed broadband network.

In 2012, Congress enacted a law to create the [First Responder Network Authority](#) (FirstNet Authority) within the Department of Commerce to ensure the building, deployment, and operation of FirstNet, America's first nationwide public safety broadband network. On February 22, we mark the 10th anniversary of that milestone legislation that launched our organization and mission.

[Read more about the FirstNet Authority at 10](#)

Help us mark the occasion by spreading the word about FirstNet and its progress over the last ten years.

- Read about FirstNet delivering its promises to public safety with the [FirstNet at 10 factsheet](#).

- Watch our [FirstNet Authority Anniversary video](#)
- Join the 10 Year Anniversary celebration by following @FirstNetgov on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#)
- Look for content from [@FirstNetGov](#) using the #FirstNet10 hashtag
- Use the #FirstNet10 hashtag to tell your story on how your organization is using FirstNet
- Follow our [Instagram](#) to see our latest Instagram Stories

We look forward to celebrating the #FirstNet10 and to the next decade of progress for first responders!



Recruitment of FirstNet Board Members

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the 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. To be considered for the calendar year 2022 appointment, expressions of interest must be electronically transmitted on or before March 14, 2022.



SELECT UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

In-Person Events

[Vision 20/20 Model Performance in CRR Symposium 7](#), Feb 22-24

[Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts Professional Development Conference](#),

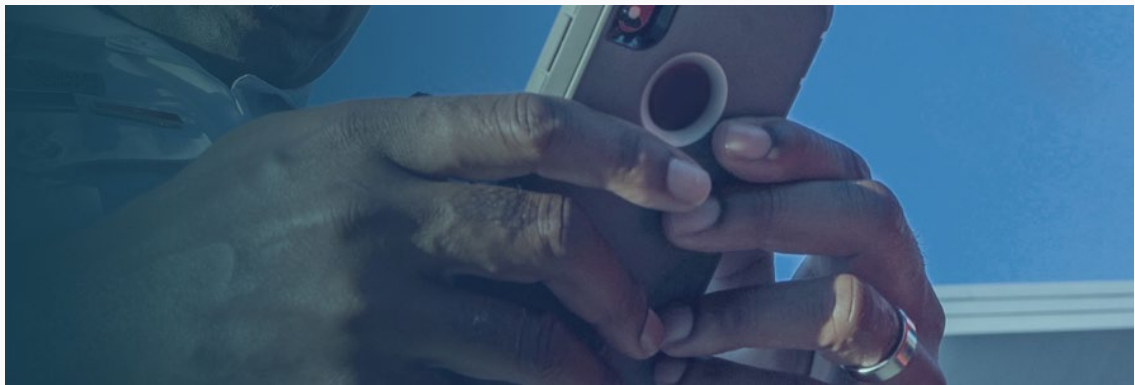
Mar 1-3

[2022 Virginia APCO/NENA Winter Summit](#), Mar 3

Webinars and Teleconferences

[FirstNet Authority's Network Experience Engagement Program webinar](#), Feb 23
[FirstNet Authority Emergency Management Webinar: After the Shaking Stops: a LIVE Demo of FirstNet Essential Tools](#), Feb 24

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



Voices from the frontlines: FirstNet devices help first responders coordinate across jurisdictions during the pandemic

As a part of the COVID-19 response, first responders are turning to FirstNet-enabled devices to make emergency communications efficient and effective during this critical time. From connecting socially distant 9-1-1 call takers to coordinating logistics for distributing personal protective equipment across state lines, FirstNet-enabled devices have played a supporting role in mitigating health risks in communities across the nation. When COVID-19 struck, Texas DPS required immediate and direct communications with local and state agencies to maintain traffic flow, manage state entry points, and monitor crowded areas across the state. The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) used FirstNet-enabled devices to stay connected to partner agencies to prepare for and maintain pandemic-related services throughout the state.

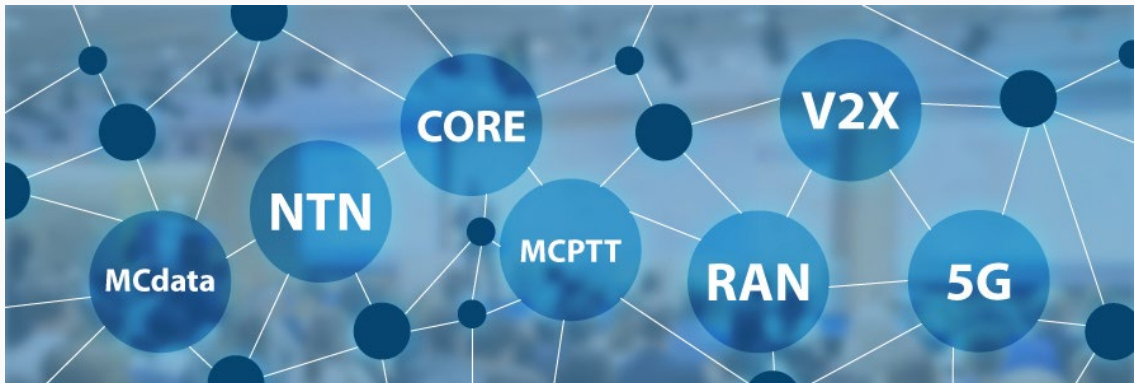
Discover how FirstNet-enabled devices are helping support responders keep their communities safe in [Part Three of our Frontline Voices blog series](#).



Voices from the frontlines: FirstNet keeps mass vaccination centers connected and coordinated

Throughout the pandemic, FirstNet has been delivering our nation's frontline public safety personnel a secure, dedicated wireless broadband service to keep mass vaccination centers connected and coordinated. When New Hampshire's Homeland Security and Emergency Management set up a mass vaccination clinic in Loudon last spring, the agency implemented FirstNet service for its communication needs. The FirstNet network was equally critical to healthcare providers and emergency managers setting up sites to administer COVID-19 testing and vaccinations in Michigan and Maryland.

Find out how FirstNet is keeping partner agencies connected and mass vaccination centers running smoothly in [Part Four of our Frontline Voices blog series](#).



3GPP December Plenary Focuses on Release 18 Feature List

The fourth quarterly Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) Plenary e-meetings of 2021 concluded in December 2021. Participants spent time discussing the preliminary scoping of the Release 18 feature list, schedule, and completion dates, as well as issues related to 5G, interoperability, and standards initiatives.

Read our latest [Tech Talk Blog](#) to learn more about Release 18 and how we're working to ensure standards meet the needs of public safety.



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 [Minnesota](#).



FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

National Coverage

[The Big Game's True Champions: Public Safety on FirstNet](#)

Telecom Ramblings, February 7

[FirstNet's CEO on 5G, priorities in 2022 and what's next](#)

Light Reading, February 10

[How cell tower 'COW' drones will keep fans safe at the Super Bowl](#)

ZDNet, February 11

[AT&T: Super Bowl data usage up 28% over 2020](#)

RCRWireless, February 15

[FirstNet Covers More First Responders Than Any Network](#) AT&T, February 22

FirstNet success means no hypothetical ‘shots’ need to be fired, Swenson says
Urgent Communications, February 22

Regional Coverage

FirstNet expansion almost complete
Gallup Independent, February 11

Success trial-run of FirstNet’s public safety network
WWTI-ABC50, February 11

Governor Hochul Announces Successful Pilot of FirstNet Public Safety Network to Enhance New York's Operational Readiness and Emergency Response
New York State Department of Transportation, February 11

First responder technology to utilize satellites for connectivity
Navajo-Hopi Observer, February 15

BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET



FirstNet Authority
@FirstNetGov

What better day to check out the [#mFITPrize](#) challenge than on [#NationalInventorsDay](#)? Help advance mobile fingerprint capture technology and develop [#Tech4Good](#). Learn more about Phase 2 and how to enter: mfitprize.com/how-to-enter/



FirstNet Authority
@FirstNetGov

During an incident, emergency managers are responsible for coordinating resources and sharing situational awareness with partners. Check out FirstNet.gov/EMguide to see how [#FirstNet](#) can support emergency managers in gathering and disseminating this critical info.



FirstNet Authority Retweeted



Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez
@NNPrezNez

...

A big thank you to the @FirstNet team for today's demonstration of the deployment network to help emergency first responders on the Navajo Nation! We look forward to continue working together for short and long-term solutions for our communities and frontline warriors. Ahe'hee'



FirstNet Authority
@FirstNetGov

...

The FirstNet Authority continues to collaborate with public safety on ways to advance the network for responders. Most recently, we've been exploring:

- ✓ #FirstNet and wildland fire ops
- ✓ Z-axis, push-to-talk, and ICAM
- ✓ Broadband use in aerial and maritime environments



The Public Safety Advocacy 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.

