THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | OCTOBER 3, 2022

Featured | **Engagements** | **FirstNet in Action** | **Momentum** | **News** | **Social**

FEATURED PUBLIC SAFETY ENGAGEMENT

Recognize Your Colleagues: Nominate someone for the Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award

In 2017, the FirstNet Authority established the Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award to recognize the spirit of service, commitment, and dedication of the nation's first responders. The honor is given annually to an individual who has contributed to the advancement of public safety broadband communications.

The honor was established to recognize **Chief (ret.) Harlin R. McEwen** who was a driving force in the establishment of FirstNet and was the founding chair of the FirstNet Authority's **Public Safety Advisory Committee** (PSAC). Nominations are now open for the 2022 award.

Past recipients of the McEwen award have included:

2018 – Tom Sorley
The FirstNet Authority Board posthumously bestowed the McEwen award to **Tom Sorely** in recognition of his extraordinary experience, expertise, and leadership serving as the chair of the PSAC. Under Sorley's leadership, the PSAC prepared public safety agencies for the adoption of FirstNet, helped develop the FirstNet Authority's Tribal Consultation policy, and provided valuable input throughout the state plan review process and Governors' opt-in decision period.

2019 – Sheriff Neil A. Miller
Buffalo County **Sheriff Neil Miller** received the McEwen Award in 2019 for his remarkable leadership and significant contributions to the advancement of public safety broadband communications across Nebraska. Sheriff Miller transformed emergency communication for Nebraska's responders by advancing the use of technology solutions in rural communities.

2020 – Chief Jeffrey Lane
Gainesville Fire Rescue **Chief Jeffrey Lane** received the McEwen Award in 2020 for his outstanding leadership and contributions to advancing broadband communications for public safety personnel in Florida. Chief Lane is known for implementing a city-wide integrated communications system that benefits public safety agencies and communities across the area.

2021 – Chief (ret.) Mike Duyck
Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue **Chief (ret.) Mike Duyck** was honored with the McEwen Award in 2021 for making significant contributions to advance emergency communications in the state of Oregon and across the nation. Throughout his career, Chief Duyck aided in the transformation of the nation's 9-1-1 system, ensuring it is up to date, interoperable, and secure against cyberattacks.

Nominations for the 2022 McEwen Award are open. To nominate an individual, download the **nomination form** and email the completed form to: **info@firstnet.gov**. Submissions requested by Friday, October 14, 2022.

Nominate your candidate today

The FirstNet Authority is hiring: Chief Executive Officer CEO

The FirstNet Authority has engaged a recruitment firm to help attract a highly qualified, diverse group of executive-level candidates for the position of CEO. The CEO is responsible for shaping the technology and reinvestment strategy for FirstNet, the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network, and overseeing all operations of the FirstNet Authority.

Read more about **applying for the CEO position**.

SELECT UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

In-Person Events

2022 VA Deployable Broadband Functional Exercise, October 5, Gladstone, Va.

PA Municipal League Conference, October 6-8, Pittsburgh, Pa.

EMS World 2022, October 10-14, Orlando, Fla.

ASCIA Conference, October 12-15, Dallas, Texas

State of Hawaii Enhanced 9-1-1 Joint Committee Meeting, October 13, Honolulu, Hawaii

Idaho PSAP Conference, October 17-19, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Virtual Meetings and Teleconferences

PSAC TWG Monthly Teleconference, October 4

*For questions about events the FirstNet Authority is attending or hosting, please email: **Outreach@FirstNet.gov**.*

FIRSTNET IN ACTION

FirstNet keeps Michigan responders communicating in the path of a tornado

Deputy Chief Gavin Babieracki of Otsego County EMS Rescue shares his experience responding when a tornado struck his community, a rare event in northern Michigan. Though the tornado was unexpected, Babieracki and his team were prepared with FirstNet and other technologies to keep first responders connected throughout the disaster.

Learn more how **first responders stayed connected during a tornado** in Gaylord, Michigan.

FirstNet Authority Board member advocates for mindfulness in public safety

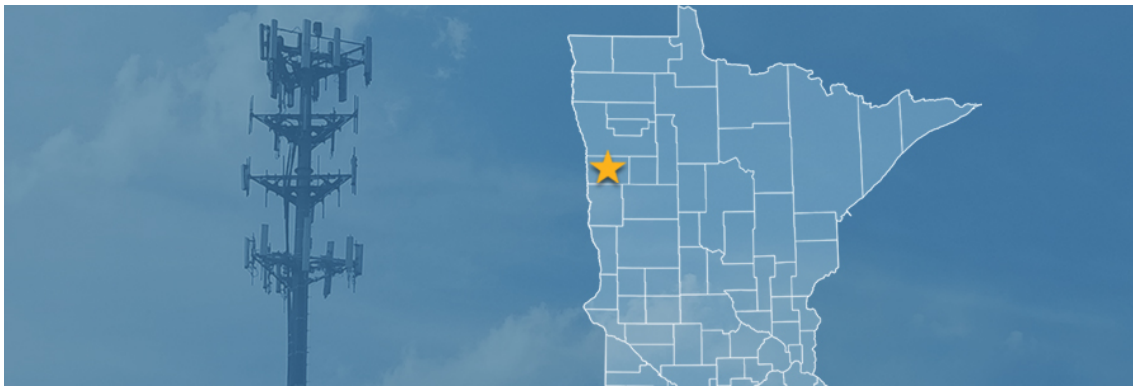
Chief Sylvia Moir is a police executive with more than three decades of local police practice and over a decade of experience as a chief of police. She was appointed to the FirstNet Authority Board by the Secretary of Commerce in October 2021. Chief Moir shared her perspectives on FirstNet, her service on the board, and the role of mindfulness in policing.

Read our **interview with Chief Moir**.

Episode 65: FirstNet: keeping the oldest city in the country connected

In St. Augustine, Florida, public safety officials navigate obstacles ranging from antiquated infrastructure causing connectivity issues to saturated networks due to tourism and special events. With the adoption of FirstNet, the police department, fire department, and other city agencies are using the network to reliably communicate throughout the oldest city in the country.

Listen to the **podcast on keeping the oldest city in the country connected**.



FirstNet expands 5G and in-building connectivity for first responders

FirstNet is furthering critical communications for first responders by expanding 5G, boosting dedicated in-building connectivity, and enhancing 9-1-1 resiliency across Tennessee with FirstNet as a wireless backup.

Read more about **FirstNet's expansion and in-building connectivity**.

New FirstNet Cell site launches near Gary, Minnesota to support first responders in Norman County

First responders in northern Minnesota are getting a major boost in their wireless communications thanks to the FirstNet network expansion currently underway by AT&T.

Read more about how **first responders in Norman County** are staying connected.

FIRSTNET MOMENTUM

Agencies
21,800+

Connections
3.7+ Million

FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

Regional Coverage

Tampa Mayor: Now is the time to prepare for potential hurricanes
10 Tampa Bay, September 30

AT&T launches floating mobile hotspot in Florida amid Hurricane Ian destruction WNDU, September 30

AT&T's disaster equipment on standby ahead of Hurricane Ian
FOX Carolina, September 28

Local road crews, utilities ready for Ian when it gets here WRDW-TV, September 28, 2022

The company has positioned equipment at strategic locations along the storm's track.
Florida Politics, September 27

New FirstNet cell tower north of Ely now operational
The Tower Timberjay, September 21

Mobile broadband expansion in SLC enhances wireless communications for customers, first responders
North Country Now, September 21

National Coverage

Hurricane Updates
AT&T, October 2

AT&T Networks Prepare for Hurricane Ian
Newnan CEO, September 28

U.S. CBP Selects AT&T to Modernize Network
Mission Critical Communications, September 26

FirstNet Authority CEO job posted officially; application deadline set for Oct. 24
Urgent Communications, September 23

Several Organizations Support FirstNet Spectrum Renewal, NSA Expresses Concerns Mission Critical Communications, September 23

NYSWA Panel Addresses In-Building Wireless Coverage in New York State
Inside Towers, September 19, 2022

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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.