



## PUBLIC SAFETY ADVOCACY UPDATE

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.



### Featured advocacy event

#### **FirstNet: One year and counting endless benefits for Maryland first responders**

In the year since Maryland chose to “opt in” to FirstNet, first responders from across the state have turned to the nationwide wireless network countless times during day-to-day and emergency response situations. At a press event commemorating the anniversary of Maryland Governor **Larry Hogan’s** opt-in decision, Lt. Governor **Boyd Rutherford** recognized the network’s impact on bolstering emergency communications by putting collaborative technologies into the hands of first responders.



The event put a spotlight on FirstNet’s role last spring during strong thunderstorms in Washington County. With high winds and over 10 inches of rain causing flash flooding, crews relied on the FirstNet network to communicate with fellow responders on the scene and when clearing debris from major waterways, repairing bridge damage, and restoring power outages across the county.

"We recently experienced significant flooding. Water rescues, road closures, and more needed to be quickly coordinated to keep our responders and our residents safe," said Washington County Sheriff **Doug Mullendore**, whose agency was one of the first in the nation to join FirstNet. "When disaster hit, we relied on FirstNet to keep us connected. We even called in a Satellite Cell on Light Truck (SatCOLT), boosting our ability to communicate and coordinate our emergency response beyond the low bandwidth Wi-Fi some of our personnel were using."

As the number of FirstNet subscribers across the country continues to grow, more first responders are experiencing the same reliable communications Washington County did during flooding response. Recently, First Responder Network Authority partner AT&T announced that public safety agencies subscribed to FirstNet are guaranteed access to AT&T’s fleet of [72 dedicated deployable network assets](#) during large events or for disaster response. Washington County, MD, is one example of the over 150,000 FirstNet connections in place that ensure responders are able to communicate to do their jobs and save lives.