



FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY



ON MY MIND

It's been an exciting and busy time at the First Responder Network Authority. With all 56 states, territories and the District of Columbia opted in, we've moved quickly to deploy public safety's nationwide network. For the first time, fire, police, EMS and other public safety professionals are able to communicate and share information without having to compete with the general public for signals.

Mike Worrell Yet the accelerated arrival of FirstNet brings an unexpected challenge to fire services and public safety agencies. Instead of having years to develop applications and devices while waiting for the new network to launch, the focus has shifted from future capabilities to what the network can offer today. With FirstNet here now, we are in discussions with the fire service and the other public safety disciplines to understand how FirstNet will enhance safety and service delivery immediately, and in the future.

That's why we're enhancing our outreach with a new initiative: The 2018 Education, Outreach, and Collaboration Program is designed to educate and collaborate with public safety agencies so that we can better understand and advocate for your needs.

For the Fire Service, meeting with the First Responder Network Authority is an opportunity to examine any issues or concerns related to coordinating emergency communications across your fire department. For example, some agencies may find it beneficial to discuss the various operating platforms found in fire departments ranging from dispatch centers, fire stations, fire vehicles and fire personnel. Although each of these sections interoperates with the other, they have uniquely different functions, needs and considerations in the fire communications system.

Once an agency determines how to meet the needs of each operating platform of the fire department, it can identify the software applications it uses and the connectivity required to support operations. It is also an opportunity to look at future technology implementations. Maybe your agency relies on apps for push-to-talk and land mobile integration or would like to someday integrate location tracking apps that coordinate real time response efforts between dispatchers and emergency responders in the field. Knowing which applications will best benefit your agency will drive the discussion about data use and types – what type of data plans best suit your agency's needs, do the applications collect sensitive data, can your existing connections support these applications? Engaging in these discussions and more can help fire services agencies maximize the FirstNet experience.

Opportunities to meet with our team will take place throughout the year at local, statewide and regional FirstNet conferences, workshops, tribal consultation sessions, focus groups and public safety forums across the country. Our many years of public safety experience help us support fire and other public safety agencies in validating that FirstNet is being implemented and used in the most economical and efficient ways possible.

Contact us directly to learn more: info@firstnet.gov or FirstNet.gov.

WHAT'S NEW WITH FIRSTNET

FirstNet is here. After years of planning and anticipation, FirstNet service is available. Agencies across the United States are already subscribing to and using the network to save lives and do their jobs more efficiently and effectively. Learn more about them on our new [FirstNet in Action](#) page.

The FirstNet Core has launched and coverage is expanding. In March 2018, AT&T [delivered the FirstNet core](#). The FirstNet Authority is conducting additional testing and validation to ensure the network delivers at the level public safety needs. As testing is completed, AT&T will begin moving FirstNet traffic over to the FirstNet core.

Devices and apps ready for FirstNet. The FirstNet Innovation and Test Lab and AT&T have been testing and validating devices and applications that run on FirstNet. Their job is to make sure tools are truly "FirstNet Ready," meaning they will perform the way public safety expects them to perform on the network. Read more: [Devices are ready for public safety's use on FirstNet](#)



Several apps have completed the FirstNet App Review process and were added to the FirstNet App Catalog. The first three are ESChat and Intrepid Response, which achieved FirstNet Certified status, and HAAS Alert, which achieved FirstNet Reviewed status. Certified apps meet requirements for public safety relevancy, security, data privacy, availability, resiliency and scalability; reviewed apps meet relevancy, security and data privacy requirements. Read more about the [FirstNet App Catalog](#) on FirstNet.com.



FIRE SERVICES AND FIRSTNET - WORKING TOGETHER

FirstNet is a reliable broadband connection that will help drones stream live video to improve situational awareness and resource deployment, and measure response in the fire service. Read more about it in this article by Regional Lead **Kevin Nida** in *FireRescue1*: [FirstNet poised to facilitate advanced firefighting technology](#). FirstNet is being built to help public safety make the most effective use of new and emerging tools – like drones – to improve situational awareness to help keep firefighters safe.

FirstNet is Boston Strong. Since the Boston Marathon Bombing in 2013, video and data have changed the communications landscape for emergency response. During this year's marathon, 80 certified FirstNet devices were available to fire, police and incident response teams from the cities of Boston and Brookline.



Connecting Connecticut Public Safety. When the town of Brookfield, CT, was hit by a tremendous storm with wind speeds of 100+ mph, most of the area's communications infrastructure was damaged and overloaded. First responders were outfitted with 30 FirstNet "ready" devices connected to a deployable SatCOLT (satellite cell on light truck) to support Brookfield.



FirstNet at FDIC. In April, I attended the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis. We prepped the video below for the event, to show how FirstNet will change emergency communications for the Fire Service.



[Click on a thumbnail to view a video.](#)

SOCIAL SCAN

A great way to keep up with FirstNet is on social – below are top tweets and posts about FirstNet and the Fire Service.



LET'S CATCH UP

In the coming months, I will be attending the following Fire Services conferences.

[Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs Leadership Conference, June 25-28](#)

[IAFC - Fire-Rescue International, August 8-11](#)

If you have plans to attend either of these events, please let me know. I always enjoy meeting new colleagues and learning about ways fire departments across the country use innovative technology for the Fire Service.

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