



**First Responder Network Authority Weekly Update to the  
State and Territory Single Points of Contact (SPOC) – October 10, 2017**

**FirstNet News**

- Minnesota opted in to the FirstNet network last week. Stay tuned for updates and watch the State Plans Dashboard map continue to develop at [www.firstnet.gov](http://www.firstnet.gov).
- Also last week, FirstNet Board member Teri Takai spoke at the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) Annual Conference in Austin, Texas.
- FirstNet CEO Mike Poth spoke at the Wireless Infrastructure Association's (WIA) Infrastructure Developers Forum in Alexandria, Virginia.
- FirstNet staff also traveled to Texas last week to meet with the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo (Tigua Nation) to discuss tribal coverage in El Paso.
- FirstNet staff were in New Mexico over the weekend for the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, where the state's Early Builder Project was being used for first responder communications. Read about it in the local media [here](#).
- This week, FirstNet will provide an update to the House Homeland Security Committee's Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications Subcommittee in Washington, DC. Details are available [here](#).

- Also this week, FirstNet will be participating in a meeting with Northern Virginia police and fire chiefs in Fairfax; the Montana State Fire Chiefs Association Convention in Helena; a Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Interoperability Working Group meeting in Washington, DC; the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Americas Spectrum Management Conference in Washington, DC; and a meeting of the Delaware Statewide Interoperability Executive Council in Dover.
- Last week, FirstNet posted one new blog: [Tech Talk: Sapporo, Japan 3GPP Plenary Meetings Recap](#).

### **News from the PSAC**

- The Tribal Working Group (TWG) held their monthly teleconference on October 3rd. Topics of discussion included planning for the group's 2018 in-person meeting and FirstNet's Tribal Consultation Policy.

### **Media Watch**

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#### **MissionCritical Communications 10/4: Minnesota Opts In to FirstNet**

<https://www.rrmediagroup.com/News/NewsDetails/newsID/16049>

Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton announced the state will participate in the FirstNet and AT&T plan to deliver a wireless broadband network to the state's public-safety community.

**EMS World 10/4: Opt In or Opt Out? Governors Face FirstNet Decision (by FirstNet Board Member Kevin McGinnis)**

<http://www.emsworld.com/article/218799/opt-or-opt-out-governors-face-firstnet-decision>

Every day the world of emergency medical services becomes more connected and dependent on digital devices to protect the communities we serve. The devices we carry are connected to the emergency response vehicles we drive; the vehicles we drive are connected to the offices and medical facilities where we work; and all this data and information is connected to massive networks commonly known as the “Internet of Things” or “Internet of Lifesaving Things.”

*Web and Social Media*

FirstNet’s social media presence grew at its normal rate this week. Twitter gained 85 new followers, now at 7,686. Facebook has 1,850 followers. LinkedIn now has 3,009 followers. YouTube has 580 subscribers.

Do you have something you want to feature in the weekly update, such as a conference date, personnel announcement, or news article showcasing the work of your organization? Please send it to [PSAC@firstnet.gov](mailto:PSAC@firstnet.gov) for possible inclusion in an upcoming update.



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**First Responder Network Authority Weekly Update to the  
State and Territory Single Points of Contact (SPOC) – October 2, 2017**

**FirstNet News**

- Last week, FirstNet delivered official notice of State Plans to governors. Read the full news release [here](#).
- Louisiana opted in to the FirstNet network last week. Stay tuned for updates and watch the State Plans Dashboard map continue to develop at [www.firstnet.gov](http://www.firstnet.gov).
- Also last week, FirstNet CEO Mike Poth, AT&T Senior Vice President Chris Sambar, and FirstNet staff attended the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) Annual Forum in Scottsdale, Arizona, to present to the group's Preparedness and Legal committees.
- Mike Poth, FirstNet Board Vice Chairman Jeff Johnson, and FirstNet staff also attended the California Fire Chiefs Association's Annual Conference in Riverside last week, where Mike provided a FirstNet update.

- FirstNet President TJ Kennedy gave a keynote address last week at the Government Business Executive Forum in Washington, DC.
- FirstNet staff traveled to Kansas last week to meet with three tribes: the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, and the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska.
- This week, FirstNet will be participating in the North Carolina Emergency Medicine Today Conference in Greensboro; the Utah APCO Annual Conference in Sandy; the Kentucky League of Cities Conference & Expo in Covington; a meeting of the Rhode Island Interoperable Communications Committee in Lincoln; the UtiliSite Council Wireless Collocation Summit in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; the North Country Interoperability Consortium in Lebanon, New Hampshire; the West Virginia EMS Conference in Morgantown; the Wireless Infrastructure Association Infrastructure Developers Forum in Alexandria, Virginia; and a meeting with the Ysleta Del Sur Tigua Nation in El Paso, Texas.

## **News from the PSAC**

- Read about last week's PSAC webinar in FirstNet's blog post: [Fall PSAC Webinar Highlights Task Team Collaboration, Working Groups' Activities](#).

## **Media Watch**

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**MissionCritical Communications 9/29: Governors Must Make Opt-In/Out Decision by Dec. 28**

<https://www.rrmediagroup.com/News/NewsDetails/NewsID/16027>

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) delivered official notice of state plans to governors. Governors will have 90 days — until Dec. 28 — to decide whether to opt in or out of the FirstNet/AT&T plan for deploying the nationwide public-safety broadband network.

**Urgent Communications 9/28: Louisiana becomes 22nd state to make FirstNet 'opt-in' decision**

<http://urgentcomm.com/ntiafirstnet/louisiana-becomes-22nd-state-make-firstnet-opt-decision>

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards yesterday announced that he has accepted the nationwide public-safety broadband network (NPSBN) deployment plan offered by FirstNet and AT&T on behalf of his state, making Louisiana the 22nd state — not including two territories — to “opt-in” to the FirstNet system.

**IEEE Spectrum 9/26: FirstNet Invites U.S. States to Sign Up for Public Safety Broadband Network (by FirstNet Chief Technology Officer Jeff Bratcher)**

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/telecom/wireless/firstnet-us-wireless-network-for-public-safety-invites-states-to-sign-up>

Three monster hurricanes pummeled the United States and Puerto Rico in recent weeks. As soon as they hit land, public safety personnel were there to help those in harm’s way. To do that important work, first responders deserve a reliable wireless network of their very own.

FirstNet's social media presence grew at its normal rate this week. Twitter gained 47 new followers, now at 7,601. Facebook has 1,821 followers. LinkedIn now has 2,983 followers. YouTube has 575 subscribers.

Do you have something you want to feature in the weekly update, such as a conference date, personnel announcement, or news article showcasing the work of your organization? Please send it to [PSAC@firstnet.gov](mailto:PSAC@firstnet.gov) for possible inclusion in an upcoming update.



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**First Responder Network Authority Weekly Update to the  
State and Territory Single Points of Contact (SPOC) – September 25, 2017**

## FirstNet News

- Last week, Maryland, Idaho, and Texas opted in to the FirstNet network. Watch the State Plans Dashboard map continue to develop at [www.firstnet.gov](http://www.firstnet.gov).
- Last week, FirstNet staff provided a FirstNet update and participated in a panel discussion at the 12th Annual North American Energy & Infrastructure Finance Forums in New York, New York.
- Also last week, FirstNet staff participated at the 4th Annual National Tribal Emergency Management Conference (NTEMC 2017) in Lemoore, California.
- FirstNet staff also participated in a panel discussion at the Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference last week in Atlanta, Georgia. The panel focused on how the FirstNet network might improve response to multi-jurisdictional missing person incidents, particularly cross-border criminal events involving tribal youth.
- This week, FirstNet will be hosting the Fall 2017 PSAC Webinar, and participating in a meeting of the Vermont Public Safety Broadband Commission in Waterbury; the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Hot Springs; the California Fire Chiefs Annual Conference in Riverside; the West Virginia Interoperability Conference in Kingwood; a Government Business Executive Forum event in Washington, DC; a Virginia Public Safety Broadband Network/FirstNet Region V conference in Newport News; a meeting with the Delaware Volunteer Firefighters Association in Newark; the National Emergency Management Association Annual Forum in Scottsdale, Arizona; and a meeting with the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska in White Cloud, Kansas.
- Last week, FirstNet posted one new blog: [PSAC Association Profile: Major County Sheriffs of America](#).



## News from the PSAC

- The PSAC will hold its fall webinar on Wednesday, September 27.

## Media Watch

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### **Urgent Communications 9/22: NTIA does not release state funding levels, pushing 90-day FirstNet 'opt-in/opt-out' deadline deeper into December**

<http://urgentcomm.com/ntiafirstnet/ntia-does-not-release-state-funding-levels-pushing-90-day-firstnet-opt-inopt-out-deadli>

Most governors will have at least until Dec. 21 to decide whether their states and territories will “opt-in” to FirstNet or pursue the “opt-out” option after the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) yesterday failed to provide key funding information that would apply to an “opt-out” state.

### **Urgent Communications 9/19: FirstNet will hold 'opt-out' states accountable to meeting network policies for 25 years, officials say**

<http://urgentcomm.com/public-safety-broadbandfirstnet/firstnet-will-hold-opt-out-states-accountable-meeting-network-polic>

States and territories that seek to “opt-out” of FirstNet and build the public-safety LTE radio access network (RAN) within their borders must clear multiple statutory hurdles and be prepared for FirstNet’s ongoing oversight of its RAN operations for the next 25 years, FirstNet officials said last week.

**Executive Gov 9/19: FirstNet Board OKs \$74M Fiscal 2018 Public Safety Network Budget**

<http://www.executivegov.com/2017/09/firstnet-board-oks-74m-public-safety-network-budget-for-fiscal-2018/>

The First Responder Network Authority Board has approved a fiscal year 2018 budget of \$73.5 million to fund FirstNet's efforts to deploy, operate and manage a nationwide public safety broadband network.

*Web and Social Media*

FirstNet's social media presence grew at its normal rate this week. Twitter gained 88 new followers, now at 7,554. Facebook has 1,784 followers. LinkedIn now has 2,937 followers. YouTube has 569 subscribers.

Do you have something you want to feature in the weekly update, such as a conference date, personnel announcement, or news article showcasing the work of your organization? Please send it to [PSAC@firstnet.gov](mailto:PSAC@firstnet.gov) for possible inclusion in an upcoming update.



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**First Responder Network Authority Weekly Update to the  
State and Territory Single Points of Contact (SPOC) – September 18, 2017**

**FirstNet News**

- Last week, FirstNet held combined Committee and Board meetings in Boulder, Colorado. AT&T also provided various technical demonstrations in the FirstNet Innovation and Test Lab. Presentations and meeting materials can be found [here](#).
- Also last week, FirstNet staff presented at the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington. PSAC Executive Committee member Mel Maier was also in attendance.
- FirstNet provided the keynote address at the U.S./Canada Border Conference in Detroit, Michigan last week, focusing on State Plan delivery and the upcoming Governor's decision.
- Also last week, the FirstNet tribal team presented at a meeting of the Southern California Emergency Managers Association in Banning, and to the Inter Tribal Emergency Response Commission of Nevada Board in Sparks. Additionally, the team met with the Passamaquoddy Tribe in Indian Township, Maine to discuss tribal coverage objectives in the State Plan.

- This week, FirstNet will be participating in the North American Energy & Infrastructure Finance Forums in New York, New York; the Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference in Atlanta, Georgia; a meeting of the New Hampshire Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee in Concord; a Virginia Public Safety Broadband Network/FirstNet Region VI Conference in Roanoke; the National Tribal Emergency Management Conference in Lemoore, California; and the Pennsylvania EMS Conference in Lancaster.
- Be sure to read FirstNet Board member Kevin McGinnis' piece "[Developing the first nationwide broadband network for EMS and other public safety agencies](#)" in this month's issue of the Journal of Emergency Medical Services' EMS Insider. Also, Congratulations to Kevin for receiving the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) [Richard DeMello Award](#)!

#### **News from the PSAC**

- Congratulations to PSAC Chair Tom Sorley for receiving the NPSTC [Leadership Award](#)! The award recognizes individuals and/or organizations that have demonstrated exceptional personal and professional conduct.

#### **Media Watch**

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**[Urgent Communications 9/14: FirstNet is delivering more than we imagined \(opinion by former Deputy NTIA Administrator Anna M. Gomez\)](#)**

<http://urgentcomm.com/blog/firstnet-delivering-more-we-imagined>

Congress then gave us—as part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Spectrum Act)—the First Responder Network Authority (or FirstNet) and assigned 20 MHz of spectrum in the 700 MHz band (Band Class 14) to achieve this vision. It is humbling and gratifying not only to watch our efforts come to fruition but to see a result that is even better than what we had imagined was possible.

**Boulder Daily Camera 9/14: National public-safety network, FirstNet, unveils its Boulder equipment lab**

[http://www.dailycamera.com/boulder-business/ci\\_31302124/national-911-network-firstnet-unveils-its-boulder-equipment](http://www.dailycamera.com/boulder-business/ci_31302124/national-911-network-firstnet-unveils-its-boulder-equipment)

The facility on the eastern edge of the city is the technical headquarters of FirstNet, a national broadband network solely for first responders. Created from the 9/11 Commission Report, FirstNet has a dedicated broadband spectrum, the "highway from your cellphone to the tower" on which data travels, said Walt Rivenbark, assistant vice president of marketing and market development for AT&T's public safety division.

**Techwire 9/11: FirstNet Closer to Becoming Reality**

<http://www.techwire.net/news/firstnet-closer-to-becoming-reality-for-states.html>

The field of dreams in question is the highly touted First Responder Network Authority. Also known as FirstNet, the system was conceived in the wake of 9/11 as a solution to the radio communications failures that plagued first responders at the height of the tragedy. FirstNet is supposed to give police and fire personnel a seamless, state-of-the-art, high-speed voice and data communications system.

FirstNet's social media presence grew at its normal rate this week. Twitter gained 57 new followers, now at 7,466. Facebook has 1,761 followers. LinkedIn now has 2,896 followers. YouTube has 558 subscribers.

Do you have something you want to feature in the weekly update, such as a conference date, personnel announcement, or news article showcasing the work of your organization? Please send it to [Outreach@firstnet.gov](mailto:Outreach@firstnet.gov) for possible inclusion in an upcoming update.



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**First Responder Network Authority Weekly Update to the  
State and Territory Single Points of Contact (SPOC) – September 11, 2017**

*As today marks the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks, FirstNet thanks the brave men and women of public safety who continue to protect and serve our communities.*

**FirstNet News**

- Last week, FirstNet Board member Kevin McGinnis and FirstNet and AT&T leadership participated in a meeting of the full National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) in Washington, DC. PSAC Executive Committee member Paul Patrick also provided a PSAC update.
- Also last week, FirstNet staff met with two New York tribes, the Seneca Nation in Salamanca and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe in Akwesasne. Discussions focused on tribal coverage in the New York State Plan, including along the Canadian border and for both rural and urban tribal lands.
- This week, FirstNet will hold combined Committee and Board meetings on September 13 and 14 in Boulder, Colorado. The meetings will be open to the public and available via teleconference and WebEx. More information is available on the [FirstNet website](#).
- Also this week, FirstNet will be participating in the Kentucky Emergency Services Conference in Louisville; the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington; a meeting of the Federal Communications Commission Region 19 700/800MHz Committee in Framingham, Massachusetts; a Virginia Public Safety Broadband Network/FirstNet Region 1 Conference in Chesterfield; and a meeting with the Passamaquoddy Tribe in Indian Township, Maine.
- Last week, FirstNet posted two new blogs: [ACEP Frontline Podcast features FirstNet, Highlights Network's Ability to Help Improve Patient Care](#) and [September is National Preparedness Month](#).
- To commemorate the anniversary of 9/11, FirstNet is also featuring "[From the video vault: The future of public safety communications in the post 9/11 era \(a video series\)](#)."

## Media Watch

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### **MissionCritical Communications 9/7: AT&T Exec Backtracks on Public Safety Grade Comments**

<https://www.rrmediagroup.com/News/NewsDetails/NewsID/15933>

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) today published its final rule outlining the criteria and processes for annual review of fees established and collected by FirstNet—a review that will not include an assessment of end-user fees for subscriptions, according to an NTIA spokesman.

### **Financial News 9/6: Alaska, Hawaii, Nebraska, Puerto Rico and Tennessee are the Latest to Announce Decisions to Opt-In to FirstNet network**

<http://www.financial-news.co.uk/43237/2017/09/alaska-hawaii-nebraska-puerto-rico-and-tennessee-are-th/>

Twenty states and territories have announced their decision to opt-in to the FirstNet network — America's only communications platform purpose-built for public safety, the company said.

### **Telecompetitor 9/5: What Happens If a State Decides to Opt Out of FirstNet Plans from AT&T?**

<http://www.telecompetitor.com/what-happens-if-a-state-decides-to-opt-out-of-firstnet-plans-from-att/>

Rivada Networks and U.S. Cellular are the latest companies to challenge AT&T's progress in gaining agreements to build a nationwide mobile broadband public safety network known as FirstNet. Just a few weeks after Verizon said it would



build a core public safety network core in competition with one planned by AT&T, Rivada and U.S. Cellular said today that they have submitted a public safety network plan for the state of New Hampshire that might be implemented should the governor decide to opt out of FirstNet plans from AT&T.

### *Web and Social Media*

FirstNet's social media presence grew at its normal rate this week. Twitter gained 36 new followers, now at 7,409. Facebook has 1,739 followers. LinkedIn now has 2,862 followers. YouTube has 552 subscribers.

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**First Responder Network Authority Weekly Update to the  
State and Territory Single Points of Contact (SPOC) – September 5, 2017**

**FirstNet News**

- Last week, Alaska, Nebraska, Puerto Rico, and Tennessee opted in to the FirstNet network. [Twenty states and territories](#) have now announced their decision to opt-in. Stay tuned for updates and watch the State Plans Dashboard map continue to develop at [www.firstnet.gov](http://www.firstnet.gov).
- Also last week, FirstNet Chief Technology Officer Jeff Bratcher and AT&T representatives provided a FirstNet update at the National Association of State Technology Directors (NASTD) Annual Conference and Technology Showcase in Memphis, Tennessee.
- The FirstNet tribal team provided a FirstNet update to officials from the Navajo Nation last week with AT&T and PSAC Tribal Working Group delegate Teresa Hopkins.
- FirstNet staff also attended the Global City Teams Challenge (GCTC) Expo in Washington, DC last week, sitting in on a range of presentations on emerging public safety technologies with a diverse group of stakeholders.

- This week, FirstNet will be participating in the Arizona APCO/NENA Training Conference in Tempe; a meeting of the Rhode Island Interoperable Communications Committee in Lincoln; a meeting of the full National Public-Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) in Washington, DC; the National Fallen Fire Fighters Occupational Cancer Symposium in Phoenix, Arizona; and meetings in New York State with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and Seneca Nation.
- Last week, FirstNet posted one new blog: [PSAC Profile: Association of Public Safety Communications Officials \(APCO\) International](#).

### **Media Watch**

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#### **Urgent Communications 8/29: NTIA issues final rule for its review of FirstNet fees**

<http://urgentcomm.com/ntiafirstnet/ntia-issues-final-rule-its-review-firstnet-fees>

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) today published its final rule outlining the criteria and processes for annual review of fees established and collected by FirstNet—a review that will not include an assessment of end-user fees for subscriptions, according to an NTIA spokesman.

#### **Navajo-Hopi Observer 8/29: Navajo Nation working with FCC to provide better technology, phone services**

<https://www.nhnews.com/news/2017/aug/29/navajo-nation-working-fcc-provide-better-technolog/>

If the commission assists the Navajo Nation with the challenge process it will take an important step to accurately assess coverage. The accuracy of coverage is vital in emergencies considering the obligations of FirstNet to provide reliable coverage for first responders and to develop AMBER Alert on the Navajo Nation.

**Mission Critical Communications 8/28: AT&T Exec Highlights Priority, Pre-emption, App Program**

<https://www.rrmediagroup.com/Features/FeaturesDetails/FID/783>

An AT&T official offered more details on priority and pre-emption and the application program for the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) during several sessions at the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International Conference in Denver Aug. 13-16.

*Web and Social Media*

FirstNet's social media presence grew faster than its normal rate this week. Twitter gained 89 new followers, now at 7,373. Facebook has 1,718 followers. LinkedIn now has 2,837 followers. YouTube has 550 subscribers.

Do you have something you want to feature in the weekly update, such as a conference date, personnel announcement, or news article showcasing the work of your organization? Please send it to [Outreach@firstnet.gov](mailto:Outreach@firstnet.gov) for possible inclusion in an upcoming update.



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