



Ten Reasons YOU Need to Be Engaged with FirstNet

FirstNet is building a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network. EMS stakeholders are necessary to help define prehospital broadband capabilities. *Are you at the table?*

FirstNet has been authorized by Congress to establish a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) that will give EMS personnel access to a secure, high-speed data network that will transform the way prehospital care is delivered to the critically ill and injured.

“EMS is on the cusp of a revolution. Are you ready for communication technologies that will turn the back of your ambulance into a remote emergency room? Soon the glasses you are wearing and the ultrasound machine you are using will live stream what you see to the hospital as you are en route with your patient. The newest generation of EMS practitioners will hold high-definition, two-way video dialogues with physicians and specialists. This real-time relay of information will allow hospitals to see what is coming in from the field ahead of time. Innovation, technology and connectivity will bring about the “Internet of Lifesaving Things,” making a monumental difference in the field and improving the continuum of care.” – TJ Kennedy, FirstNet President.

The EMS 3.0 initiative, including community paramedicine and mobile integrated healthcare, are the framework of that revolution; however, the communications capabilities of the FirstNet NPSBN will enable that revolution.

You must be engaged because EMS requires:

1. **High-speed data networks** that are HIPAA secure and will allow you to rapidly access and exchange multi-media data in urban, suburban, and rural areas.
2. **Reliable and stable networks** that will be there when you need it and will not be impacted by congestion on commercial cellular networks.
3. **Faster and more efficient emergency medical response** based on access to incident location data, updated GIS maps, and real-time GPS tracking of emergency vehicles and crewmembers.
4. **Access to incident video and data received by the PSAP** from 9-1-1 callers, advance automatic crash notification devices and other data sources, including patient condition and vehicle crash impact status.
5. **Enhanced situational awareness** at the scene in real time, including the ability to share imagery, voice and data for better disaster response, scene documentation, triage, and resource allocation.
6. **Ability to provide mobile telemedicine** to send pictures and video to the Emergency Department when consulting with a physician, or record video of a patient interaction to document an uncooperative patient or patient refusal.
7. **Ability to reliably transmit 12-lead EKGs and patient biomedical data** to the Emergency Department or patient receiving facility to enhancing readiness and supporting early alerts to specialty teams including trauma, stroke, and STEMI groups.

8. **Electronic access to and transmission of patient medical records;** health information exchange (HIE) databases, mobile integrated healthcare resources, and other online resources while also being able to transmit your patient care report electronically to the Emergency Department or patient receiving facility.
-  9. **Leverage emerging prehospital care technology** including remote laboratory screenings and ultrasound image transfer that can support Community Paramedicine and mobile integrated healthcare.
-  10. **Greater levels of interoperability and real time data sharing** between other first responder organizations and agencies.

“My agency already has commercial wireless network capabilities on its EMS units. Why should I care about FirstNet?” FirstNet is a broadband wireless network designed to support public safety. It is not the same commercial network used by everyone today to access their mobile apps, games, social networks, chat rooms, video, music streaming, etc. Use of the commercial network is growing with increasing network congestion. This will continue to challenge public safety’s access to network resources that are needed to communicate with doctors, hospitals, and other responders and to access critical data when it is needed most.

Also, **FirstNet has a rural mandate from Congress**, unlike commercial wireless which has little incentive to build coverage in rural areas. Using a combination of tower-based, satellite, deployable and other technologies, FirstNet must develop coverage in rural areas.

You and your EMS agency will benefit from FirstNet in the following ways:

1. Better patient care through collaboration between field providers, patient receiving facilities, and other technical experts.
2. Lower litigation risk through enhanced communication between EMS personnel and online medical control physicians, and use of video documentation.
3. More efficient resource allocation through enhanced situational awareness of patients and available resources.

FirstNet needs to know what EMS requires and expects from the network. This cannot happen unless EMS is sitting at the table during the discussions. Law enforcement and Fire/Rescue representatives are currently there, participating in each state. Don’t get left behind! Each state has a designated Single Point of Contact that helps organize input from first responders on the needed functionality of this new network.

It is critically important that EMS personnel be at the table with law enforcement, fire/rescue, and other public safety representatives. So, contact your State’s Single Point of Contact and join the discussion **NOW**.

Let your EMS voice be heard!

You can find more information and the name of your State Point of Contact by visiting the FirstNet website: www.FirstNet.gov/consultation. You may also contact these FirstNet representatives who focus on EMS issues

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