

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT
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EMSWORLD®



FIRSTNET®
Built with AT&T



**FIRSTNET®: A WIRELESS
NETWORK BUILT WITH—AND
FOR—FIRST RESPONDERS**

UNITING FIRST RESPONDERS AND THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY ON ONE SECURE COMMUNICATIONS PLATFORM

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks exposed a glaring weakness in our communications systems. A thorough investigation revealed first responders weren't able to communicate with each other as congestion on multiple networks increased that day. This meant critical, life-saving information wasn't getting where it needed to go.

In 2012, Congress passed the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act, which called for establishing a reliable, nationwide communications network for first responders. They signed it into law Feb. 22, 2012, and allocated 20 megahertz of spectrum and \$7 billion to establish a broadband network dedicated to the nation's first responders.

The act also established the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) to oversee the construction, deployment and operation of the network. And Congress further required the FirstNet Authority to oversee the extension of network coverage in rural areas through buildout milestones.

FirstNet gives first responders reliable wireless coverage.

Photos: FirstNet Built With AT&T





The mission of FirstNet is to unite first responders and the greater public safety community onto one highly secure communications platform.

In 2017 FirstNet became a reality, giving first responders the *only* nationwide communications network built *with and for them* and those who support them.

The Mission

The mission of FirstNet is to unite first responders and the greater public safety community onto one highly secure communications platform so they have access to the connectivity and technology they need—when and where they need it.

The first five years have been transformational for FirstNet. From the launch in March 2017, to:

- all 50 states, five U.S. territories and the District of Columbia opting in
- to the delivery of the separate FirstNet core in March 2018...
- to the continuing rollout of Band 14 across the country...
- to the innovation of mission critical solutions for public safety...
- to getting more than 20,500 agencies and organizations, accounting for over 3 million connections on FirstNet*

First responders put their lives on the line every day to help others. And they deserve reliable and highly secure communication. And AT&T is in it for the long haul to build and maintain this important network.

First Priority® Provides Priority and Preemption

The biggest components that separate FirstNet from other networks are the 24/7 priority and, for first responders, preemption capabilities, it offers. Picture an HOV or carpool lane on a busy highway. Now picture only emergency vehicles using the HOV or carpool lane, bypassing all commercial traffic, quickly getting to where they need to go. This is what priority and preemption are.

With a special SIM card in their FirstNet Ready® devices, first responders get access to the network's HOV lane so they don't have to compete with commercial traffic. This helps ensure they have reliable communication when they need it, every time. Couple this with no throttling of voice or video, and you get an extremely reliable network built for ordinary and extraordinary days.



Picture only emergency vehicles using the HOV or carpool lanes on a highway. This is priority and preemption.



Workers break ground on a new FirstNet cell site in Preston County, West Virginia.

The prioritized access plays an important role in emergency communications, as seen in Ford County, Kansas. In this small, rural community, one of the biggest threats is fires. Local fire personnel use drones to livestream footage from the fire back to mobile devices, allowing first responders to get a complete picture to get ahead of the blaze, reducing fire damage and response time.

EMS and FirstNet

FirstNet gives EMS professionals reliable wireless coverage, which opens a wide array of possibilities and convenience, especially in when it comes to time-sensitive patient care.

Bangs Ambulance in Ithaca, New York is using the reliable FirstNet coverage to make an impact on its citizens and community. The city lies in a geographically diverse area that includes gorges and waterfalls, making reliable communication a challenge.

"FirstNet is helping us by providing a more reliable means of communication to the physicians, to the resource centers. It allows us to transmit the EKG, the vital signs to the hospitals to make those transport decisions quickly," says George Tamborelle, paramedic supervisor with Bangs Ambulance.

Franklin County, Kansas, too is seeing the difference FirstNet makes. Reliable communication is imperative for positive patient outcomes, especially when it comes to a STEMI (heart attack). And FirstNet delivers the tools Franklin County EMS needs to best serve these patients. One of the resources Franklin County uses is a 12-lead EKG that can be transmitted to the hospital while enroute, giving doctors an accurate picture of what they're facing even before the patient arrives.

"Before, if our coverage was unreliable and we were in a very rural part of the county, we had a delay in getting those 12-lead EKGs sent to the hospital," explains

Christi Hilliker, assistant chief at Franklin County EMS.

"While we could get on the radio and tell the Cath Lab we're coming with a STEMI, it's in the best interest of the patient to have a cardiologist with an actual printout of the 12-lead EKG."

"Now with FirstNet, we're able to get coverage anywhere in the County. And we don't have to worry about not being able to send those. We know that our 12-leads are going to go through with no problem," Christi continues.

Deploying Reliability

Whether it's natural disasters or planned events, such as festivals or concerts, FirstNet has a fleet of 150 deployable assets designed to ensure you have the coverage you need when you need it, so you can stay connected and mission ready. These dedicated deployable assets are mobile cell sites that link to FirstNet via satellite. They don't rely

on commercial power availability. And they're available in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories, all at no cost to first responder agencies on FirstNet. The assets include:

- **Communications Vehicles (CVs):**

This is an air-conditioned command space for 2 first responder communications personnel that includes multiple monitors, a television and charging stations, and a large exterior screen and speakers for briefings. The CVs are also equipped with a generator that can run for multiple days before refueling. Plus, the CVs include a lavatory, microwave, mini refrigerator and sleeping bunk for those long deployments in the harshest of conditions.

- **Satellite Cells on Light Trucks (SatCOLTs),** which offer connectivity similar to that of a cell tower.

These are stored in 50 locations across the country in order to accommodate the 14-hour turn-around time.

- **Flying Cells on Wings (COWs) and FirstNet One aerostat:**

These airborne assets provide wireless coverage for particularly difficult areas.

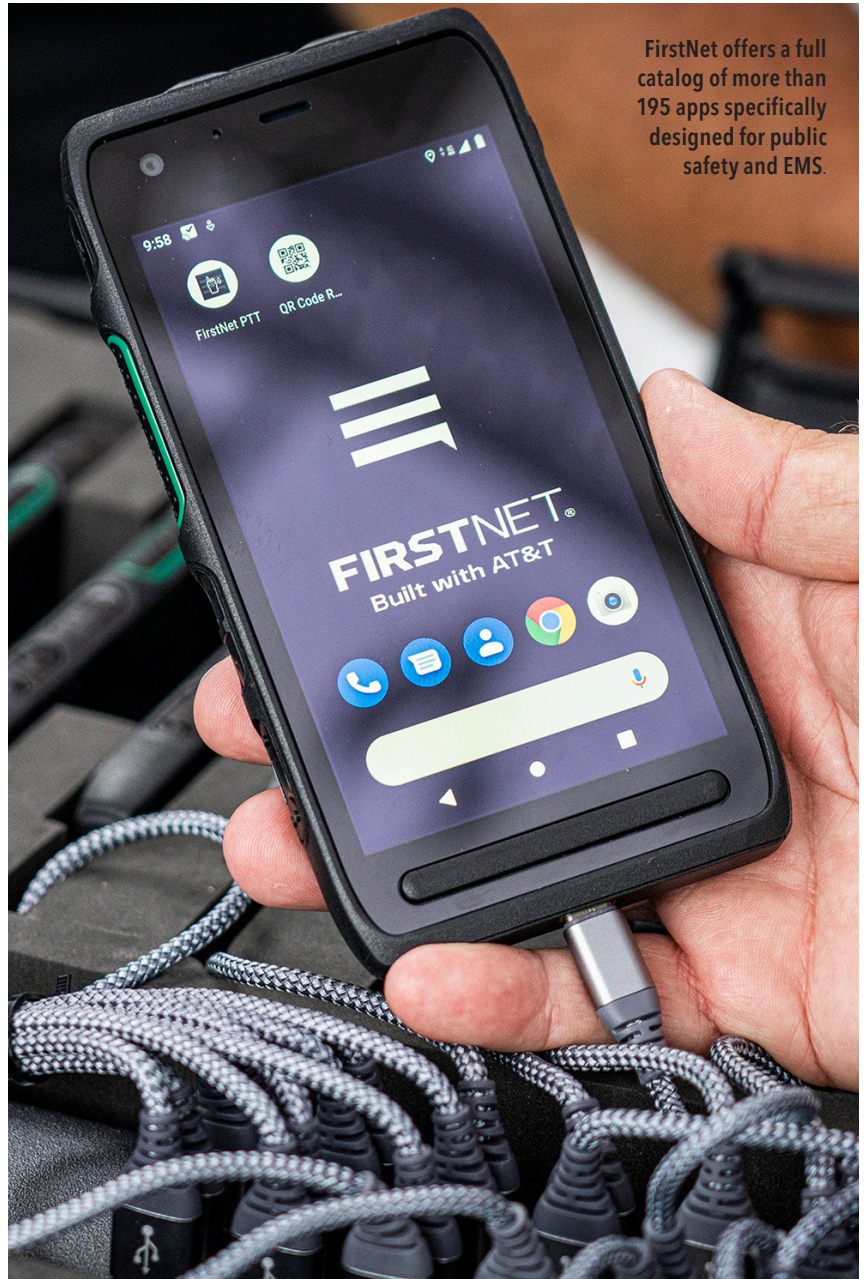
- **The FirstNet One Aerostat** is the first blimp of its kind and can fly up to 1,000 feet and provide crucial connectivity.

In 2021, there were over 800 requests for these assets. As of March 2022, there have been over 150.

Making the Most of Your Device

FirstNet offers a full catalog of more than 195 apps* specifically designed for public safety and EMS professionals like you. What's more, the apps included have been carefully vetted to meet our standards for usability, reliability, accuracy and security so you can comply with HIPAA.

For example, the e-Bridge app allows you to share voice, text, photos and data over a highly-secure connection—so you can comply with HIPAA regulations. And you can livestream on the way to the hospital, providing enhanced situational



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— Christi Hilliker, assistant chief, Franklin County EMS



awareness and more effective patient care. Use the e-Bridge app for:

- **Burns or wounds**—Share pictures to help physicians better advise you on wound care prior to arrival and make optimal transport decisions
- **Stroke**—Send recorded or live streaming video of the prehospital stroke assessment to the hospital or stroke center.
- **Trauma**—Share pictures from the scene of the mechanism of injury with trauma teams to help with decisions and team preparation.
- **Transport refusals**—Video against medical advice patient refusals for liability protection.
- **Mass casualty**—Send pictures, video clips or live streaming video from the scene to physicians, emergency departments or command centers to improve triage, situational awareness and resource allocation.
- **Bio/chemical/hazmat event**—Photos, video clips or live streaming from the scene can help minimize the number of responders, health-care providers and members of the public exposed, improve triage and ensure patients are taken to facilities equipped to handle such emergencies.

All apps listed in the FirstNet catalog have been scanned for malware and severe security vulnerabilities to better protect the public safety community, letting you focus on serving your community.



On FirstNet, first responders can communicate effectively and reliably.

More than Reliable Service

The commitment FirstNet has made to first responders goes far beyond reliable wireless connectivity. FirstNet knows the job of first responders is not just physically stressful. It can lead to many mental stresses as well.

The FirstNet Health and Wellness Coalition, established in October 2020, is here to help coordinate and strategically plan for how the organization supports health and wellness of first responders. Its mission is to integrate responder, community, industry and academic capabilities in order to support the health, wellness and readiness of America's first responders.

And FirstNet has gone beyond its commitment to build and operate FirstNet, creating the ROG the Dog, an animal-assisted therapy program to support first responders in the field.

FirstNet launched the program through a collaboration with Global Medical Response to support public safety on the front lines. The program consists of a fleet of trained Labradoodles that specialize in animal-assisted therapy for first responders.

It's affectionately named after the FirstNet Response Operations Group (ROG)—the team led by former first responders who

guide the deployment of the FirstNet fleet of dedicated deployable network assets.

Agencies on FirstNet can request a therapy dog in the same way they request a network asset from the FirstNet fleet. And just like the fleet, the dogs are available at no additional charge.

Today and Beyond

FirstNet is the *only* wireless network built with and for first responders and those who support them. There's no throttling on FirstNet and you never have to compete with commercial traffic. On FirstNet, first responders have the bandwidth they need to communicate with each other effectively and reliably.

Featuring over 2.81 million square miles of coverage*—50K square miles more than commercial networks—FirstNet is larger than any other wireless network. Already, more than 20,500 public safety agencies and organizations, accounting for 3.3 million connections* are on FirstNet—supported by the coverage they need in more places than ever before.

Ready to get started? Visit <https://www.firstnet.com/signup/> today and experience the FirstNet difference.

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