

FirstNet for the Fire Service



Broadband-based technologies connect firefighters with computer-aided dispatch systems, mapping tools, patient care reporting, and hazardous materials information to improve response and save lives.

FirstNet, the nationwide public safety broadband network, provides a secure, reliable broadband connection so communications remain intact and firefighters can receive and transmit sensitive and life-saving information.

Fire service officials nationwide are using FirstNet and its suite of innovative tools, features, and services to:

- Share images and video and access weather/traffic data for a clearer operational picture
- Communicate and share data with other public safety agencies and jurisdictions
- Monitor FirstNet network status and view coverage in areas where responders are active or being deployed
- Uplift specified users or groups over congested networks when an emergency or planned event occurs
- Manage mission-critical assets, supplies, and personnel with real-time tracking and mapping
- Boost communications during natural disasters, major planned events, or in remote locations using FirstNet dedicated deployable assets
- Use mapping applications that share lookout positions, escape routes, safety zones, and water sources
- Deploy drones to quickly search large areas and send livestream footage to incident command
- Identify a firefighter's vertical location with FirstNet's Z-axis capability

Quality of service, priority, and preemption

FirstNet's high-quality Band 14 spectrum is reserved for public safety. Because of FirstNet's built-in priority and preemption capabilities, first responders stay connected even when commercial networks are overloaded.

FirstNet supports:

Mission critical applications

- Computer-aided Dispatch
- GIS/mapping
- Weather/traffic
- Live video streaming
- Asset and personnel tracking
- Emergency guides
- Mission-critical push-to-talk
- HAZMAT management
- Internet hotspots
- Drone operations
- Access to deployables at no cost
- Vertical location data for personnel

Administrative applications

- Records management and reporting
- Database access
- Medical references

Secure connectivity

- User and device authentication
- Application VPN
- Secure mobile gateway
- End-to-end encryption
- Single sign-on service
- Device lock and data wipes
- Local agency control of devices



“Our firefighters saw the speed of the service. They saw the connectivity. They saw that there wasn’t any latency. They’ve seen why FirstNet is really important.”

Firefighter Don Patterson
Berthoud Fire Protection District,
Colorado

Complementing traditional radio networks

FirstNet provides high-speed data services and FirstNet Push-to-Talk (PTT), a standards-based mission-critical PTT solution, to augment responders’ Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems. With FirstNet PTT, firefighters can communicate one-to-one or with a group via voice or text. They can also request mutual aid through the FirstNet PTT app and conduct mission-critical video streaming and PTT calling over Wi-Fi. FirstNet PTT was built to seamlessly integrate with LMR voice communications so that firefighters can experience greater range, interoperability, and capacity.

Enhanced coverage

FirstNet’s reliable and robust Band 14 service gives firefighters the coverage and capacity to perform their duties wherever disaster strikes. FirstNet also provides innovative technologies to supply coverage in areas with limited or no broadband service, including:

- Compact Rapid Deployables, small portable cell sites that can be activated quickly and transported using a regular trailer hitch
- In-building booster cells that bring firefighters connectivity in hard-to-reach places like stairwells and heavy concrete buildings
- High Power User Equipment, which boosts signal strength up to six times the normal cellular power to maximize coverage in remote or rural areas
- FirstNet Ready® device caches, which supply ready-to-use equipment and devices for firefighters during disasters or large events

Available to volunteer and career fire service

More than half of all firefighters support volunteer fire departments. Budgets are often limited for these companies, restricting spending on new technology and tools. Through a subscriber-paid plan, FirstNet is available for qualified, individual first responders who want to transition to the FirstNet network.

Additional information:

- For use cases and testimonials, visit [FirstNet.gov/FirstNetinAction](https://www.firstnet.gov/FirstNetinAction).
- For more info about how FirstNet serves the fire service community, visit [FirstNet.gov/Fire](https://www.firstnet.gov/Fire).
- Learn more about the First Responder Network Authority at [FirstNet.gov](https://www.firstnet.gov).
- Learn about FirstNet products and services on [FirstNet.com](https://www.firstnet.com).