



The Emergency Medical Services Take



Brent Williams

ON MY MIND

As part of our commitment to delivering innovation to the EMS field, the First Responder Network Authority recently [signed a memorandum of understanding \(MOU\) with the University of Mississippi Medical Center \(UMMC\)](#) to collaborate and provide innovation for emergency medical care and response.

Telemedicine is advancing as a part of community para-medicine programs. It is revolutionizing the role of EMS professionals by bringing the capabilities of hospital care directly into an emergency vehicle, a patient's home, or virtually any other emergency scenario.

As the EMS community pushes more responsibilities out of the hospital setting and into the field, EMS technicians will be expected to quickly expand their use and expertise of new capabilities. We will no longer only respond to emergencies and patients needing immediate treatment. Instead, with FirstNet providing the backbone to support new technologies, EMS will also respond to any patient in need of medical attention.

The integration of telemedicine into the EMS field can dramatically improve patient care by providing:

- Increased reach to patients in rural areas with less access to physical healthcare facilities
- The ability to send relevant patient data and assessment findings to prescribers to authorize more advanced care in the field
- More specialized care
- Reduced patient wait times
- More affordable patient care
- Reduced patient readmissions to hospitals

With FirstNet, EMS technicians will have fast, reliable access to the entire medical community. FirstNet will give public safety professionals instantaneous communications through radio, phone, or internet -- and can even securely send large patient-data files -- such as ECG rhythms, ultrasound and CT images, and other vital-sign information -- straight to any healthcare provider. This will ultimately reduce risk, minimize cost, save time, and improve patient health.

Brent Williams is Senior Public Safety Advisor, First Responder Network Authority

WHAT'S NEW AT FIRSTNET

First Responder Network Authority, UMMC to Innovate for Rural Response

During the March 20 First Responder Network Authority Board Meeting in Jackson, MS, the Board unveiled new initiatives to develop a Roadmap and shape the future of public safety's dedicated network. As part of those initiatives, the First Responder Network Authority is collaborating with UMMC to provide the latest developments in emergency medical care and telemedicine.

"For years we worked hand-in-hand with public safety to plan for FirstNet and make their network a reality," said **Ed Parkinson**, Acting CEO of the First Responder Network Authority. [Learn more.](#)



FirstNet Improves network coverage for first responders in Baltimore County, MD

On March 5, Baltimore County, MD, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate its first FirstNet cell site. The site is in a high-traffic area that public safety officials identified as a critical location for mission-critical network capacity.

Maryland Congressman **Dutch Ruppersberger** said, "I supported the legislation behind FirstNet, recognizing the need for and benefits of a dedicated, nationwide broadband network for public safety. And I'm pleased to see the early benefits that FirstNet is already bringing to Maryland's first responders as it paves the way for new capabilities and innovations in the way public safety handles emergencies and serves our communities." [Learn more.](#)



FirstNet Public Safety Innovation Day gathers Roadmap Input from leaders



As part of our Roadmap engagement program, the First Responder Network Authority held a Public Safety Innovation Day on March 6 in College Station, TX. The event brought together thought leaders from the field of EMS and other public safety disciplines to discuss emerging technologies and exchange useful feedback.

FirstNet Board Chair **Edward Horowitz** said in his event keynote, "FirstNet is not a technology, it is a strategic asset that communities can use to become safer and achieve a higher quality of life for their residents."

[Learn more](#) about the event; also read about Roadmap engagements in [Virginia](#), [Arizona](#) and [Michigan](#).

FirstNet App Catalog Spotlight: New apps, badges and webinars

The FirstNet App Catalog adds new apps frequently to help EMS and other public safety users. Two new apps include:

[Pulsara](#) provides seamless communications between EMTs and hospital staff during emergencies and while en route to the hospital.

[HipLink](#) increases EMS response by allowing teams to use smartphones and tablets for secure messaging.



Look for FirstNet app badges

Every app in the FirstNet App Catalog has been inspected to 1) verify the app is directly relevant to the needs of first responders, 2) be highly confident the app is secure and protects data, and 3) demonstrate a history of limited unplanned outages with three 9's (99.9 percent) availability. An app that meets those criteria is approved to be FirstNet Listed, and can use the new FirstNet App Catalog badge.

App providers who apply for and meet the higher criteria for FirstNet Certified may use the FirstNet Certified badge. FirstNet Certified apps have shown their ability to limit unplanned outages with four 9's (99.99 percent) availability and meet the additional criteria of resiliency, scalability, and optimized use of mobility resources.



Check out FirstNet App Webinars

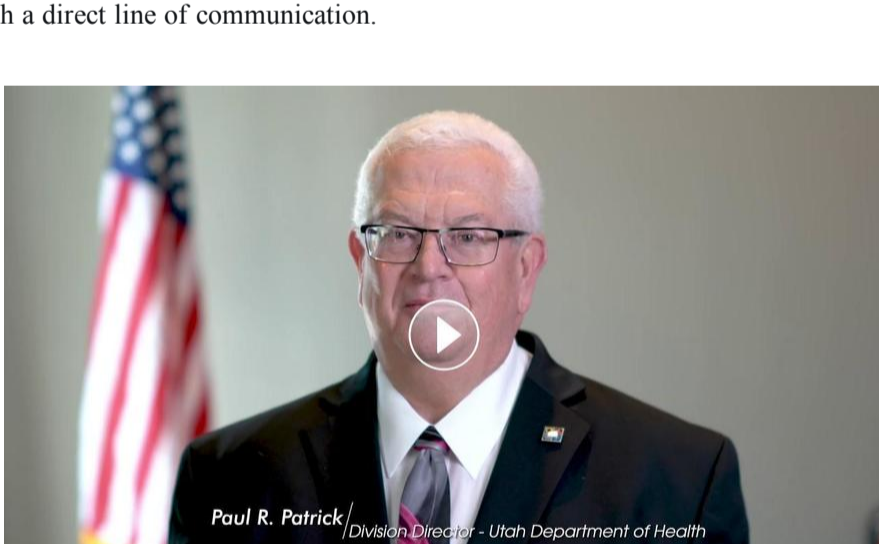
Register for the next FirstNet app webinar on **May 16, 1:30 - 3 p.m. ET**. Hosted by AT&T and featuring app providers for the next FirstNet, the webinar will discuss the ways agencies can enable persistence services and enable, set, and enforce security and data-protection policies.



WORTH A LOOK/LISTEN

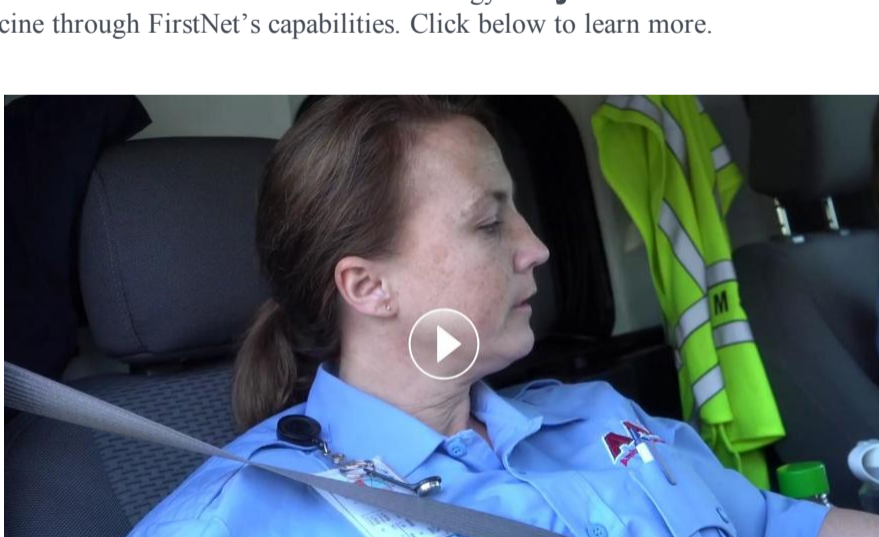
Video: The Future of Telehealth and Emergency Management Services

In the below video, FirstNet Board Member and Utah Department of Health Division Director **Paul Patrick** shared his views on how FirstNet is transforming the medical emergency response by linking EMTs and hospitals through a direct line of communication.



Video: FirstNet's Impact on AAA Ambulance

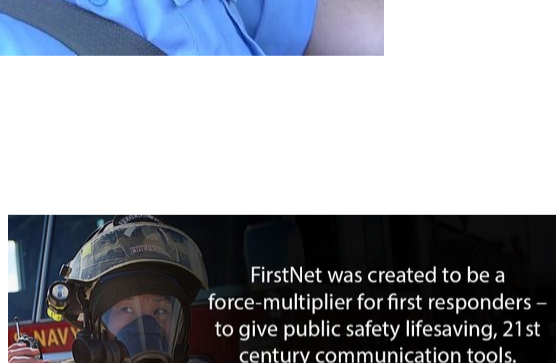
AAA relies on FirstNet to help connect the medical crews and ensure they are providing the best response for all of their patients. AAA Chief of Information Technology **Andy Geske** is excited about the opportunity to extend telemedicine through FirstNet's capabilities. Click below to learn more.



Check out the updated FirstNet.gov

We recently updated our [FirstNet.gov](#) website, making it easier to learn more about FirstNet and the First Responder Network Authority. Here are some pages you may find particularly useful:

- [Emergency Management Services page](#)
- [Public Safety First podcast page](#)
- [FirstNet.gov blog \(latest news\)](#)



LET'S CATCH UP

I plan to be at the [NASEMSO 2019 Annual Meeting](#) in Salt Lake City, May 13-16. If you're attending or in the area, or just want to schedule another time to catch up, let me know at Brent.Williams@FirstNet.gov. I always look forward to hearing from you.

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