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THE EMS TAKE: SUMMER 2019



The EMS Take from Brent Williams

EMS puts FirstNet to good use

Summer is here, and I've been crisscrossing the country talking with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals about how they're using technology for emergency care in the field. Of course, any technology is only as good as the broadband network that enables it. Read on to learn what I'm hearing from EMS professionals nationwide about how public safety broadband is [helping EMS do their jobs more efficiently](#).

EMS uses FirstNet at Kalamazoo Marathon

Life EMS Ambulance in Michigan called on FirstNet to help with communications during the Kalamazoo Marathon. Large community events like marathons typically strain commercial networks, but with FirstNet, first responders operate on a dedicated broadband network with prioritized access and boosted coverage. At the Kalamazoo marathon, FirstNet deployed a Satellite Cell on Light Truck (SatCOLT), a mobile center that links to FirstNet via satellite and enhances coverage in the area. Deployables like the SatCOLT can be deployed at no extra cost for planned events or emergencies.

John Pinkster, Life EMS Area Director for Kalamazoo, was pleased with the coverage and capability provided by FirstNet. "The COLT worked very well for the Kalamazoo marathon," he said. "We set up just northwest of the start/finish line with our command trailer next to the COLT. We did data speed tests at several points throughout the event. Through it all, the Band 14 service on FirstNet was excellent."

Medicare pilot program for patient-centered EMS care

I have long believed that [telemedicine is the future of EMS](#). A significant step towards that future came when [CMS announced a pilot program](#) to reimburse EMS agencies for transferring patients to destinations other than an emergency room (such as doctors' offices or urgent care clinics) and for treating patients on scene or via telemedicine. This patient-centered triage approach is heartily welcomed by the EMS community. As the program rolls out, FirstNet will be an important partner in providing dedicated, reliable broadband access for participating ambulance suppliers and providers.

New EMS apps debut in the FirstNet App Catalog

You can read about the [FirstNet App Catalog](#) to learn how new applications are benefitting the EMS community. New apps specific to EMS are now available, with solutions that [send important patient information](#) from the field to the hospital or support data workflow to save time in lifesaving treatments.

How are you using FirstNet in the field? I'd love to hear from you. [Email me](#), or better yet, join me at one of these upcoming events, where I'll be talking FirstNet with the EMS community:

- [The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials \(APCO\) Annual Conference & Expo](#), Baltimore, MD, August 11, 2019
- [National Association of EMTs \(NAEMT\) 2019 Annual Meeting](#), New Orleans, LA, October 16, 2019
- [EMS World 2019](#), New Orleans, LA, October 18, 2019
- [American College of Emergency Physicians \(ACEP\) 2019 Conference](#), Denver, CO, October 30, 2019
- [American Ambulance Association \(AAA\) 2019 Conference](#), Nashville, TN, November 6, 2019

[Visit the EMS discipline page](#)

Inside FirstNet

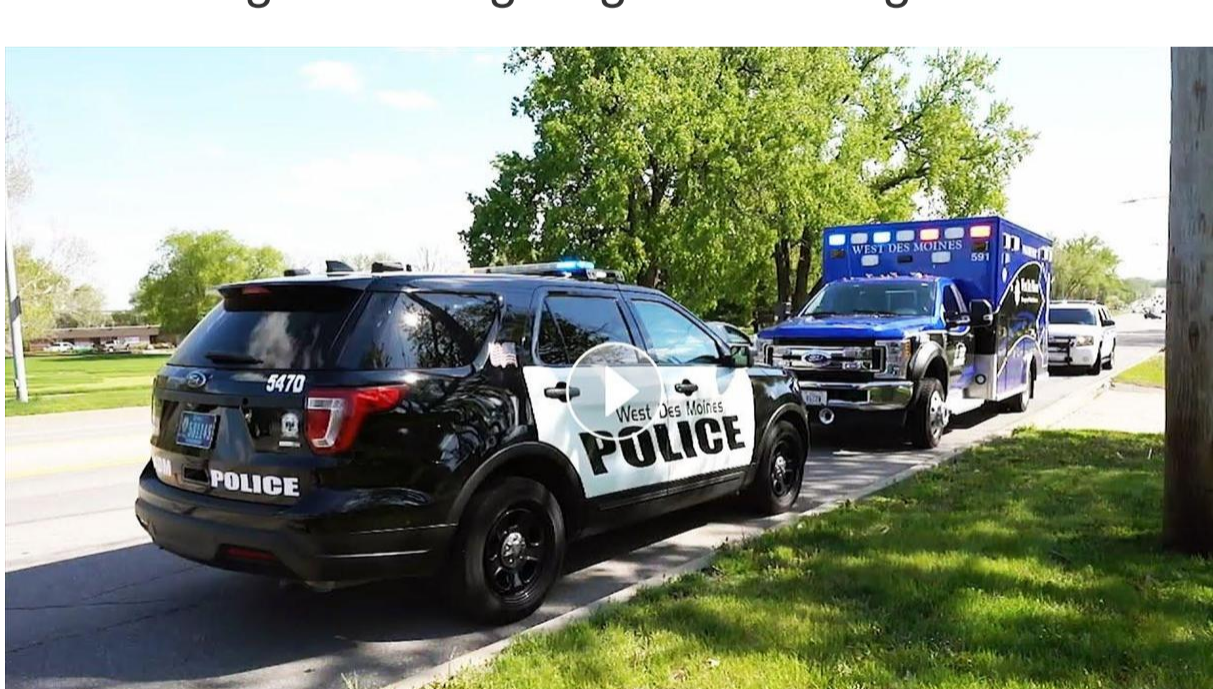
- 1 [FirstNet takes to the skies](#) with three new flying COWs (Cells on Wings), part of a nationwide fleet of FirstNet-dedicated deployable assets available at no extra cost to subscribers.
- 2 Broadband access is expanding with new FirstNet cell sites in rural areas—like [Preston County, West Virginia](#) and the [Red Cliff Reservation](#) in Wisconsin—to increase nationwide coverage and capacity.
- 3 [We've heard you](#). Stay tuned for the [FirstNet Authority Roadmap](#), a plan to advance FirstNet based on your feedback.
- 4 San José leads the nation in [deploying FirstNet to all of the city's public safety](#) personnel and emergency response staff—["from tip to tail of the organization."](#)
- 5 Public safety agencies are using FirstNet at [trainings](#) and [exercises](#) to integrate public safety broadband into their operations.

Tech, Innovations and Hot Topics in EMS

*Read what we've been hearing from public safety in the field about trends and drivers for EMS and emergency communications.**

EMS agencies are using [new data-sharing technologies to map emergency services](#) in their communities. Data mapping allows for the real time identification of hot spots, travel obstructions, and public health trends. Knowing where clusters of the same types of calls are occurring allows EMS agencies to make data-driven decisions about resource deployment. Data sharing technologies can also reduce paperwork and create [better collaboration between EMS and hospitals](#). When EMS and emergency departments work together, the quality and efficacy of pre-hospital and in-hospital care improves.

Connecting and Navigating EMS through Traffic



First responders from West Des Moines EMS (IA) reflect on how these new capabilities will transform the way they communicate.

Brent Williams is a Senior Public Safety Advisor and the First Responder Network Authority EMS Subject Matter Expert. Learn [more about Brent](#) or [email him](#) with your questions.

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Top photo: A paramedic with West Des Moines EMS uses FirstNet to share real-time data.

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