







The FirstNet
Authority at 10:
Delivering on our
promise to public safety

The First Responder Network Authority, or FirstNet Authority, was established in 2012 to ensure the building, deployment, and operation of a nationwide public safety broadband network. The public safety community advocated for a dedicated network after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks highlighted gaps in the nation's emergency communications. Ten years after its creation, the FirstNet Authority has made significant progress to realize public safety's vision for the network.

### Deployed a single, nationwide interoperable network

The FirstNet Authority formed a first-of-its-kind public private partnership with AT&T in 2017 to deliver the network to public safety. Today, FirstNet operates in all 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia, providing first responders with the bandwidth and interoperability they need to communicate and share information during daily operations and emergencies. The buildout of public safety's spectrum (Band 14) on the network is ahead of schedule – surpassing 95% complete – and there are more than 19,500 public safety agencies and organizations using more than 3 million connections nationwide.

# **Engaged with first responders and established the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC)**

The FirstNet Authority established the PSAC in 2013 to give public safety a voice in network planning and operations. The PSAC brings together public safety organizations to advise the FirstNet Authority on key network milestones and developments. The FirstNet Authority also collaborated with local, state, federal, and tribal public safety agencies in every state and U.S. territory to understand and incorporate their needs into the planning and operation of FirstNet.

#### **Enhanced broadband coverage in rural America**

FirstNet provides coverage and capacity where public safety said they need it – with a focus on serving rural and remote regions. As a result of FirstNet's expansion into rural areas, the public now has access to commercial broadband in certain areas that previously had little or no broadband coverage. In addition to adding new, purposebuilt FirstNet cell sites across the country, FirstNet offers first responders dedicated deployable assets – or mobile cell sites – to provide on demand coverage. High Powered User Equipment helps maximize coverage and stay connected to a tower's edge.

## Spurred a public safety ecosystem and competitive marketplace

FirstNet has created a public safety broadband marketplace that is leading to more choices, lower costs and specialized solutions built to public safety's needs. This includes more than **440 devices approved for use on FirstNet and more than 190 applications identified** in the FirstNet App Catalog.

#### Invested in network innovation and growth

The FirstNet Authority has a unique business model that enables it to direct up to \$18 billion in investments over 25 years for improving and evolving the network. The FirstNet Authority delivered its first set of network investments in 2021 based on public safety's feedback and needs. The investments expanded the number of FirstNet deployables to over 100 assets. The FirstNet Authority also directed investments for initial generational upgrades to the FirstNet core to enable access to current 5G network capabilities.









#### Facing the pandemic

Public safety has worked tirelessly to keep our country safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, using FirstNet's reliable and adaptive mobile broadband solutions in innovative ways. At mass vaccination sites, New Hampshire Department of Safety officials used FirstNet to send and receive data from drones monitoring traffic and air quality sensors. The City of Alexandria in Virginia used hotspots and smartphones powered by FirstNet to enable 9-1-1 dispatchers to take calls and handle Computer Aided Dispatch operations from home. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in Washington used a FirstNet SatCOLT to connect their testing center.



#### **Coordinating responses to natural disasters**

Public safety's growing use and reliance on wireless broadband communications makes the network invaluable for unplanned event response to natural disasters. When firefighters responded to a wildfire near Cameron Peak in Colorado, two deployables were stationed along the fire line, allowing critical information to flow between incident command and frontline firefighters. As Hurricane Laura moved toward the Gulf Coast, FirstNet provided Louisiana responders with the use of Emergency Drop Kits, mobile cell sites, and FirstNet One, an aerostat that can provide wide-scale portable connectivity to responding agencies.



### Capacity for planned events and large crowds

With FirstNet's priority and preemption, public safety does not have to compete with the large crowds that gather for concerts, festivals and sporting events. When Super Bowl LIII came to Atlanta, the Fulton County Emergency Communications Center used FirstNet devices to equip a remote 911 center and to make calls in areas where radios were less reliable. The City of Canton Police Department in Ohio collaborated with other local responders to use FirstNet during events at the Pro Football Hall of Fame. During an evacuation of over 30,000 concert-goers, first responders across three agencies stayed connected via FirstNet, despite network congestion.



#### A network for every emergency, every day

Responder's day-to-day communications improve with dedicated mobile broadband designed for public safety. Alachua County Fire and Rescue in Florida use the network to connect their mobile data computers while in route to calls and send health data directly from the ambulance to the hospital. In Loudoun County, Virginia, the Sheriff's Office uses FirstNet for all mobile communications, from their mobile data computers to the command bus. The Green Bay Police Department integrated their FirstNet devices with mapping technologies and a mass communications incident command system, allowing for quick and efficient communications.



#### **Coverage across America**

As a result of FirstNet's expansion, responders have access to broadband in areas that previously had little or no broadband coverage. A purpose-built FirstNet site in Wisconsin reduced dead zones for Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's first responders. Washington County Sheriff's Office in Oregon uses FirstNet on their cell phones and their mobile data computers to protect a community of 600,000 people spread out in rural areas. Cell phone communications are traditionally a challenge at the annual American Birkebeiner Ski Race in rural Wisconsin, but a FirstNet SatCOLT providing a mobile cellular connection in 2020 solved the problem.











