

Newsletter

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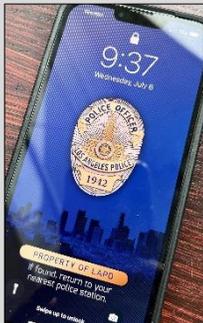
Improving connectivity for Navajo Nation responders

Navajo Nation first responders are getting a major boost in their wireless communications. FirstNet® is constructing new, purpose-built sites where first responders said they needed improved coverage. Read more about the agreement to help build out spectrum across more than 100 sites.

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LAPD takes critical step in safety innovation with FirstNet

The Los Angeles Police Department is expanding its use of FirstNet® – equipping officers with new tools, expanded capabilities and reliable access to critical information while in the field. This will allow the department to better serve those who live, work and visit Los Angeles.



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Connecting on your own phone, tablet or wearable

Before becoming EMS Director at DHR Health in South Texas, Daniel Tuttle was a paramedic. Hear about the hurricane experience that prompted him to subscribe to FirstNet on his own devices. [WATCH VIDEO](#)

“The best thing FirstNet offers us here at DHR Health is a reliable means of communication.”

By Daniel Tuttle

Director, Emergency Medical Services, DHR Health

As the director of emergency medical services at DHR Health, my job is to maintain good relations between EMS, fire, law enforcement. Anything they may need, I'm here to facilitate it for them. And I'm here to keep them up to date with new procedures, new equipment, new personnel, new expansions that we may be doing.

It's important for hospitals to have that position because as a medic, you don't know what a hospital can provide unless you're there. Or you have somebody providing you with that knowledge.

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NAVAJO NATION

FirstNet, America's public safety network, improves connectivity for Navajo Nation first responders



"This is a great collaboration that is increasing the telecommunications capabilities that our frontline warriors need to respond to emergency situations on the Navajo Nation. The behind-the-scenes work and coordination has been tremendous and now we are seeing the real change that our communities will benefit from in terms of greater resources for first responders," said Jonathan Nez, Navajo Nation President.

Collaboration with Commnet Broadband helps advance public safety, improve connectivity for Tribal community

Navajo Nation first responders are getting a major boost in their wireless communications. FirstNet® is constructing new, [purpose-built](#) sites where first responders said they needed improved coverage. Plus, FirstNet and AT&T are collaborating with Commnet Broadband, NTUA, [NTUA Wireless](#) and the [Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission](#) to help build out additional Band 14 spectrum and AT&T commercial LTE spectrum bands across more than 100 sites.

These sites, installed across Navajo Nation's 27,000 square miles, will help extend the FirstNet reach in the community, as well as improve the LTE broadband signal for residents. Chapter Houses, schools, medical centers, businesses and housing complexes will benefit from the new sites. Most towers are operational now with the final two expected to be operational by December 2022.

"This is a great collaboration that is increasing the telecommunications capabilities that our frontline warriors need to help respond to emergency situations on the Navajo Nation," said Jonathan Nez, Navajo Nation

President. "The behind-the-scenes work and coordination has been tremendous and now we are seeing the real change that our communities will benefit from in terms of greater resources for first responders. This is Nation building and we look forward to constructing more infrastructure to improve the quality of life for our Navajo people. We welcome FirstNet to the great Navajo Nation." More than 20,500 agencies and organizations, accounting for 3.3 million connections nationwide¹ are already getting the unique benefits of FirstNet. This includes truly dedicated coverage and capacity when they need it. Plus they get unique benefits like *always-on* priority and, for first responders, preemption capabilities, and high-quality Band 14 spectrum. These advanced capabilities help fire, EMS, law enforcement save lives and protect their communities.

Why is this important?

FirstNet is built for all public safety. That means *every* first responder in the country – career or volunteer; federal, tribal, state or local; urban, suburban or rural. By collaborating with local providers, we're able to use existing infrastructure and benefit from the provider's local, on-the-ground expertise and experience.

The collaboration with local providers is part of our FirstNet buildout strategy to quickly address rural coverage needs and [extend the network's reach](#), giving

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NAVAJO NATION

Improving connectivity for Navajo Nation first responders

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more of the public safety community access to *their* network. After all, emergencies don't know zip codes.

"We are excited to work with AT&T to bring FirstNet coverage to the public safety officials of the Navajo Nation," said **Tom Guthrie**, Commnet Broadband CEO. "In addition to expanding coverage in rural America for first responders with FirstNet, this initiative will allow AT&T to deliver quality mobile services to the Navajo people."

Benefits to first responders

Band 14 is nationwide, high quality spectrum set aside by the federal government specifically for FirstNet. We view Band 14 as public safety's VIP lane. In an emergency, we can clear this band – or lane – and lock it just for FirstNet subscribers. That means only those on the FirstNet network will be able to access Band 14 spectrum, further elevating their connected experience and emergency response.

"The expansion of FirstNet coverage equips Tribal first responders serving the Navajo Nation with secure and dedicated connectivity when they need it – both in their daily operations and when emergencies arise," said Angel Benally, Tribal Affairs Specialist, FirstNet Program at AT&T.

"Navajo Nation emergency personnel have harnessed FirstNet during their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as supporting their communication during planned events ranging from the Navajo Nation Fair to First Lady Dr. Jill Biden's visit last spring," she added. "The collaboration with small and rural telecom providers, including Commnet Wireless, has helped us further extend the reach of FirstNet in rural and tribal communities. As a result of this effective collaboration, we're excited about the progress that's occurred to build out FirstNet Band 14 and additional LTE spectrum to support first responders and the broader community on Navajo Nation.

And thanks to the unique qualities of Band 14, FirstNet is the only network where public safety can take advantage of the highest power class signaling available in the U.S. – [FirstNet MegaRange™](#). It provides the greatest benefit in areas where data connectivity is traditionally unreliable, such as remote regions, rural

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– Jonathan Nez,
Navajo Nation President

areas and maritime environments. This means first responders can install specially designed FirstNet Ready® HPUE devices in their ambulances, squad cars, fire trucks and other vehicles and buildings to significantly increase their coverage area in remote locations.

Collaborating to expand FirstNet coverage

When Congress passed bipartisan legislation to create FirstNet, they recognized the critical importance of coverage in tribal, rural, and remote communities. In addition to building new, purpose-built FirstNet cell sites and deploying Band 14 spectrum on new and existing AT&T cell sites, the law directed the FirstNet network expansion to include collaboration with local service providers and use "cost-effective opportunities to speed deployment."

"FirstNet is a dedicated broadband platform for public safety, by public safety," said Jeremy Zollo, Chief Market Engagement Officer, FirstNet Authority. "We worked hand-in-hand with the Tribal public safety community to understand their needs for the network. And these network enhancements are a prime example of how that input and feedback is becoming reality. We look forward to supporting Navajo Nation first responders' use of FirstNet to help them save lives and protect communities."

This collaboration is helping to more quickly address rural coverage needs and expand the reach of FirstNet for the public safety community.

¹As of Q1 2022

FIRSTNET ON YOUR OWN DEVICE

"We could just show up without calling in a report. We could show up without saying anything, but then you have that delay of five, six minutes that it takes to provide that information to the staff and then for it to transmit to the other individuals on the staff. Five minutes is a long time in the medical field. Any time that we can save is beneficial for the patients," says Tuttle.



“The best thing FirstNet offers us here at DHR Health is a reliable means of communication.”

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What FirstNet offers

The best thing FirstNet offers to us here at DHR Health is a reliable means of communication. We have a network we can rely on if there's a major incident, if there's a storm. We can use FirstNet to communicate with other providers, whether it's pre-hospital, people at our own facility, or a surgeon who needs to know about a patient coming in.

For example, being on the ambulance. We would either contact through radio or we would use our cell phones to call and report to the facility to let them know we're coming in with a patient. This is our ETA. This is our status.

As a hospital, we get all sorts of different patients – by helicopter, ambulance, or it may be the patient driving themselves in. And communication is key.

That's why I made the switch to FirstNet.

Minutes count

When we take a patient care report or when we give a patient care report, the most important thing you're going to start with is age, gender, the chief complaint, how it happened and their current status. Depending on the situation, you may provide more or less information.

So let's say you're working a cardiac arrest. Time is key. Medications are key. Have you established an airway? Have you established a line for this patient to give these medications? All those become central to the outcome.

We could just show up without calling in a report. We could show up without saying anything, but then you have that delay of five, six minutes that it takes to provide that information to the staff and then for it to transmit to the other individuals on the staff.

Five minutes is a long time in the medical field. Any time that we can save is beneficial for the patients.

The Golden Hour

Right now, the standard is the golden hour. The clock starts ticking from the point of injury. If you're in a critical incident, you have an hour to get to a facility, which substantially increases your odds of survival. Whether you're out in the mountains, out in the hills, or down the street, the standard has always been if you arrive within an hour – your survivability will increase significantly.

And when it comes down to the golden hour, communication is key.

You need to communicate with your teammates, your partners. We need to extricate the patient. We need to start this level of care with the patient. Once we load the patient, we still need to continue to communicate with our partners, with the patient, and then the hospital.

Once you're transporting, we have our monitors, we have
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FIRSTNET ON YOUR OWN DEVICE

“The best thing FirstNet offers us ...is a reliable means of communication”

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our I.V. pumps. And we can transmit all the information about everything we're doing on scene to the hospital – whether it's from our cardiac monitor, our ventilator. We transmit everything we do. Certain systems even have a process where you can monitor the whole ambulance from inside the E.R.

Before FirstNet

Before FirstNet, communication through radio was the standard. While we're used to being independent, you really can't function as a team if you don't have a way to communicate with your leaders. Network reliability is very important out in the field. If we can't communicate, we can't do anything.

For example, in In 2020, we had a hurricane come in. There was a specific patient that just kept calling. Unfortunately, we couldn't get to the house because of weather conditions. There was flooding because of the storm. And trees were blocking off all the different accesses to the home. It was extremely frustrating.

We drowned two units actually trying to go out there. As a paramedic, you're thinking what can I do for that patient? How am I going to get to that patient? We couldn't communicate. I gave up and I just grabbed the trauma bag. And I walked. By the time I got there, nobody was there anymore.

Making the switch

Following the hurricane in 2020, I found it to be very stressful. I switched over from a different provider onto FirstNet. It's great. I have a phone. I have a tablet. I have a watch.

My watch has its own line. My tablet has its own line. It's great to live stress free. Having FirstNet really allows me to focus on my job at hand. When there's a critical incident, it's helpful to know that if I need to, I can just send a text over. I can call just to make sure that my mom's doing fine, make sure that my fiancé is doing fine. FirstNet provides first responders with peace of mind because if we had to, we could reach out to our family members during stressful times to make sure that everything is fine.

Once we know they're fine, we can do our job to its full extent without having to worry is my family fine. While we love our jobs, our family comes first.



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– Daniel Tuttle, Director,
Emergency Medical Services, DHR Health

Patient outcomes

Since I've been on FirstNet, personally I've had a lot better patient outcomes.

We see a lot of flooding here in this area and weather has been acting up quite frequently. The service is usually spotty. But having FirstNet – let's say I'm transporting somebody in cardiac arrest and I can't communicate via the radio – I can just call and it works. That's the most important part.

I can reach out and let them know I'm coming in with X patient. That's very beneficial to the patient and to us as providers. We know we're doing everything we can and we're actually accomplishing our goals.

FirstNet is very reliable. My devices never have any issues when it comes to service.

At the end of the day, FirstNet helps us to save lives. Being able to communicate with the very first person on scene to the very last person is essential. It's the whole reason we do this.

Daniel Tuttle is the director of emergency medical services at DHR Health in Edinburg, Texas.

LAPD INNOVATION

Taking critical step in safety innovation with FirstNet

New communications technologies expand officers' capabilities to better serve Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Police Department is expanding its use of [FirstNet®](#) – the only network built with and for America's first responders and the extended public safety community. With FirstNet, LAPD is equipping officers with new tools, expanded capabilities and reliable access to critical information while in the field. This will allow the department to better serve those who live, work and visit Los Angeles.

FirstNet, Built with AT&T is designed to improve interoperable communications across public safety entities nationwide. It allows first responders to communicate with one another easily and quickly during everyday situations, big events or [emergencies](#). This is integral to solving the communications challenges public safety has experienced in the past.

Choosing FirstNet

The LAPD chose FirstNet during the pandemic to help modernize the department's communications technology. And it is now further investing in officer and community safety. LAPD is issuing updated FirstNet-enabled, iPhone 13 Pro Max Devices to each officer. This will help the department better coordinate communications and create more opportunities for technological innovation.

The department also will outfit its patrol vehicles with Cradlepoint routers to give officers in the field the network connectivity they need. This will give the department a path to 5G and further technological innovation in the field.

"Our officers' main job will always be to service our community," said Michel Moore, Chief of Police, LAPD. "With FirstNet, we are taking the next step in fulfilling our vision of the future of policework. Taking advantage of the elegantly designed apps and reliable and secure connection, officers will be able to do their work on their phones or in the cars, instead of at the station, allowing more time to help those in the community and creating a safer environment."

In addition, LAPD officers will be equipped with Intrepid



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Network's Response for FirstNet® platform. The Response platform is a FirstNet Certified™ simple-to-use web and mobile situational awareness platform that enables teams to effectively communicate, collaborate, and coordinate and make more informed decisions based on near real-time information.

Response for FirstNet also integrates Incident Command System (ICS) reporting into its platform. The integration of ICS allows officers to streamline the ICS form-filling process by combining mobile and cloud-based custom automation to fill out every ICS report needed in just a few clicks.

"The Response for FirstNet platform greatly reduces radio traffic, decreases response times, enhances situational awareness, and increases officer safety," said Britt Kane, CEO of Intrepid Networks. "We are pleased to support the

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Taking critical step in safety innovation with FirstNet

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entire LAPD agency with our mobile situational awareness solution.”

LAPD joined FirstNet to provide first responders unthrottled access to an entire public safety ecosystem of mission-ready tools and capabilities, including:

- The only nationwide communications platform that allows us to coordinate emergency responses efficiently and effectively across agencies and jurisdictions.
- Always-on priority and preemption to give us reliable access to the connections we need – and protecting us from network congestion.
- A separate, dedicated and highly secure network core purpose-built for public safety’s sensitive communications.
- Innovative tools – like public safety-centric applications, mission-critical solutions and connected devices – to give us more actionable information for heightened situational awareness.
- A dedicated fleet of 150+ deployable network assets. Public safety agencies can request these assets for additional connectivity at no extra charge during

remote situations, planned events or urgent crises. This is unique benefit to the industry.

- Access to holistic public safety health and wellness tools and resources, like [ROG the Dog](#), that go beyond network connectivity – all powered by the [FirstNet Health & Wellness Coalition](#), which represents more than 5.1 million first responders.

“We’re honored that LAPD chose FirstNet to elevate its communications capabilities,” said Rhonda Johnson, President, AT&T-California. “It’s our mission to give first responders the cutting-edge tools they need to safely and effectively achieve their mission. FirstNet will help first responders in Los Angeles and across the country perform at the highest levels to keep themselves and those they serve out of harm’s way.”

“FirstNet, Built with AT&T is the exclusive communications platform, built with and for public safety, inspired by public safety. There is no substitution for this purpose-built network,” said Lisa Casias, Acting CEO with the First Responder Network Authority. “We look forward to supporting LAPD and all of California’s public safety community with FirstNet, making sure it delivers what they need, when they need it.”