

HOW FIRST RESPONDERS CAN PREPARE FOR FIRSTNET

America's first responders—EMS, fire and law enforcement—have been eagerly awaiting the rollout of FirstNet®, a nationwide, high-speed broadband network dedicated to public safety for first responders. FirstNet is the next generation of communication capabilities for EMS services that, up to now, have been using 800 MHz and dedicated frequencies to respond to calls.

Why FirstNet?

Currently available bandwidths often can't handle video and other data that modern EMS providers need to respond effectively. Also, coordinating communication with other public safety agencies can be difficult during large-scale disasters or at major public events.

FirstNet solutions will make all emergency providers more effective, more efficient and more connected than ever before. In addition to providing real-time information where and when you need it, first responders are considered "primary users" of the network. That means first-responder connectivity will always be switched automatically to first priority without dispatch or any agency having to take any additional steps.

FirstNet is already rolling out.

Work has already begun testing on the initial phases of the FirstNet public radio spectrum (band 14) that extends coverage into rural areas and into highly congested areas with radio spectrum access problems. And the FirstNet core service has also been tested for its ability to preempt and prioritize for primary users.

Matt Zavadsky, Chief Strategic Integration Officer with MedStar Mobile Healthcare in Fort Worth and MIA advisor to the Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS), reports that since the MedStar executive team moved their cell phones over to the FirstNet system, they have not had one dropped call, an impressive early test of the system.

Are you ready for FirstNet?

FirstNet is here today and promises even more exciting capabilities in the future, including push-to-talk, location-based services, the integration of video for patient diagnosis and other medical assistance, to name a few.

Work with a trusted partner: Panasonic.

Working with a trusted partner like Panasonic, a recognized mobile solutions provider and FirstNet master dealer, can help you understand what you need to do to prepare your agency. Many emergency services already use Panasonic TOUGHBOOK® rugged laptops, tablets and handhelds and rely on the industry-leading reliability and durability of these devices. Panasonic has the tools and resources to help current and prospective TOUGHBOOK customers get up and running on FirstNet.

Mary Beth Hall, Panasonic Group Manager, Wireless Strategy, says "Our teams are set up to help you with your transition plan as you are starting to think about what's next as you get ready for FirstNet." And Jo Satili, Panasonic National Sales Manager, Public Sector, emphasizes that "It's important that we talk to our customers now, because during the process . . . their needs are going to change and the requirements are going to change."

Panasonic field service engineers are already helping customers plan and transition their devices to a FirstNet plan. All Panasonic TOUGHBOOK devices can get on a FirstNet plan so customers can start using FirstNet preemption and priority capabilities right away. As a mobile solutions provider, Panasonic creates a seamless link between hardware, robust applications for first responders, and services and support, and can actually perform your FirstNet activations.

Experienced EMS, fire and law enforcement personnel, and command officers know that there are two things that help us succeed in every incident case: first is preparation and knowledge, and second is the help and assistance of trusted, reliable and qualified partners. Panasonic is stepping forward as a trusted partner that will give you answers as you plan for FirstNet.

To find out more about how Panasonic can help first responders, visit the [Knowledge Center](#) or our [Mobility Blog](#).