



Fall 2016

## Mike Worrell, FirstNet Senior Fire Services Advisor

*I joined the FirstNet team a little over a year ago, and since then I've had the opportunity to engage with hundreds of fire service professionals about how the FirstNet network stands to benefit fire communications in their states, communities, cities, and towns.*



*A recent opportunity was the [Colorado Fire Leadership Challenge](#) held in October in Denver. More than 500 leaders in fire services attended the event, and FirstNet was fortunate to participate in several sessions and discussions on how the Network stands to be a game-changer for fire services nationwide.*



*On FirstNet's behalf, I'd like to thank the Colorado Fire Leadership group for the warm welcome we received at that conference, as well as their efforts to get the word out about FirstNet in the state. If you or your agency has an upcoming event that you would be interested in having FirstNet attend, please feel free to contact me at [Mike.Worrell@FirstNet.gov](mailto:Mike.Worrell@FirstNet.gov) or (202) 815-8455.*

*After serving 29 years with Phoenix Fire Department, I can only imagine how different my job would have been with the tremendous advantages the network will bring to fire communications today. I look forward to continuing to meet with fire professionals from around the country to get their feedback as we work to deploy the Network.*

## IAFC Stands Firm on FirstNet

The [International Association of Fire Chiefs](#) has endorsed the FirstNet network by a unanimous vote, passing a resolution in full support.



The [organization's statement](#) reads in part, "FirstNet devices and applications will ultimately change the way local fire and EMS departments operate. Therefore, the IAFC encourages fire chiefs throughout the nation to participate in FirstNet's consultation process with all 56 states and territories." "This will ensure that our members' priorities, most importantly the expeditious delivery of FirstNet services in every state, are a critical factor in every governor's decision."

FirstNet is developing customized plans for each governor to prepare his or her state or territory for the network deployment. Those plans are expected to be delivered by mid-2017. The IAFC represents more than 11,000 global leaders in fire, rescue and emergency medical services.

## California Wildfires Rage On in the Fall

According to the [National Interagency Fire Center](#), wildfires are at their worst in the fall. Traditionally, the month of October brings strong seasonal winds, bone dry vegetation, and changing weather patterns which are ideal conditions for the fires to start and spread rapidly. The largest fire on record in California's history happened in October of 2003. It charred 270,000 acres — an area 10 times the size of San Francisco.



A FirstNet team visited a Wildland Fire Training Exercise recently in San Diego County on the Viejas Reservation. Several fire chiefs described how high-speed visual data and interoperability brought by today's technology has made them better informed on the job, and how the FirstNet network will take their capabilities to an even higher level. Visit the FirstNet YouTube channel and see a video of Chief Ken Kremensky from the Barona Fire Department in a recent production, "[Data and Technology are Key Weapons when Fighting Wildland Fires.](#)"

## Catching Up With Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr



The Austin, Texas Fire Chief came by the FirstNet booth at [IAFC FRI 2016 Conference](#) and shared how FirstNet could help the Austin Fire Department. "We have a lot of large scale events in Austin ... a broadband network like FirstNet will certainly help us continue to communicate and push out information."

## Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) News

PSAC's executive committee recently got a sneak peek at FirstNet's Test Lab in Boulder, CO, opening October 2016. The 28,000 square foot structure will be the hub for technological innovation, as workers will be designing and engineering telecommunications properties and devices that will propel public safety communications abilities to a top-notch level.



In other news ... [Two new federal members joined the PSAC](#) -- Supervisory Special Agent Michael Gilmore from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Acting Associate Chief Kraig E. Moise from the Customs and Border Protection (CBP). With Michael serving as chair of the Federal Working Group, and Kraig as its vice chair, federal public safety leaders will be well-informed and participate on current items taken up by PSAC.



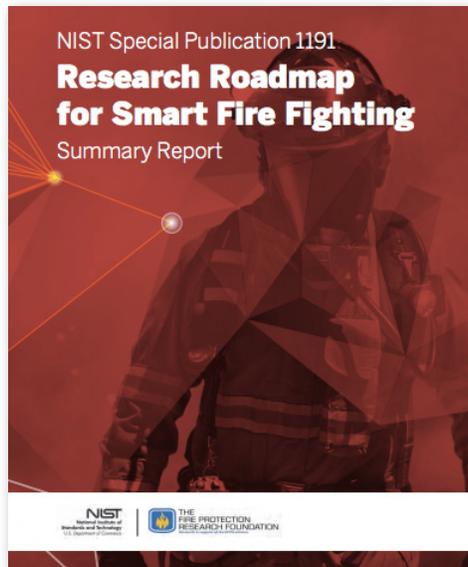
FirstNet's [PSAC](#) is comprised of 43 representatives from public safety and state, territory, local and tribal organizations. The committee advises FirstNet on the planning and deployment of the FirstNet network. The newly appointed IAFF PSAC representative is Lt. Billy Freeman, Memphis Fire Department. Visit [FirstNet.gov](#) for a full list of committee members and their respective associations.

## NIST Research Road Map for Smart Fire Fighting

When responding to the more than 1.2 million blazes reported annually, the nation's firefighters usually start with a dangerous disadvantage: They often lack critical information—even something as basic as a floor plan—that could be vitally important in mounting the most effective and safest attack.

That information gap could be erased with today's communication, computing, sensor and networking technologies according to the [Research Roadmap for Smart Fire Fighting](#). Prepared by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF), the roadmap charts the path toward overcoming technical obstacles so that those interconnected technologies, known collectively as cyberphysical systems, or CPS, can be harnessed to greatly improve fire-protection and fire-fighting capabilities.

Visit [Nist.gov](#) for this in-depth, informative resource that explains many of the technical capabilities and extensive data access that firefighters will have at their disposal with a broadband connection like the FirstNet network.



## Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR)

In January 2016, the NIST PSCR program established the [Innovation Accelerator](#) to spearhead research and development (R&D) efforts. To pave the way for the Innovation Accelerator, PSCR worked with its diverse stakeholder base to identify R&D priorities with cross-cutting positive impact for public safety. Technology Roadmaps are being developed to outline the critical technology gaps. The Innovation Accelerator will leverage the Roadmaps to make better-informed decisions on R&D initiatives. In the near-term, PSCR stakeholders identified five technology focus areas that will drive R&D for the Innovation Accelerator: LMR to LTE; User Experience; Location-Based Services; Mission-Critical Voice; and Public Safety Analytics.



"[The Act](#)" that created FirstNet charged NIST with utilizing up to \$300 million of The Public Safety Trust Fund (PSTF) allocations to establish an R&D program to support the development and deployment of the FirstNet network.

Sign up for the [PSCR Newsletter](#) and join a working group to help shape communications technology of the future.

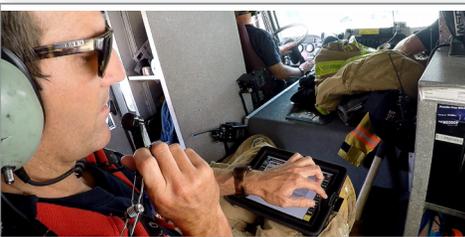
*"FirstNet is going to be tremendous for providing data that can go back and forth, across state lines."*

Richard Carrizo  
Fire Chief, Southern Platte, Protection District Missouri



## Connect with FirstNet at an Upcoming Event

Event	Date
New York State Association of Fire Chiefs (Schodack)	11/19/16
Hawaii Fire Chief Conference (Honolulu)	12/5/16
Alaska Fire Chiefs Association Leadership Summit (Juneau)	2/1/17
CFSI National Fire & Emergency Service Dinner & Symposium (Washington, DC)	4/5/17



*“One of the most important things the network will do for us is give us a lot of capacity. We’re looking forward to the day when public safety is able to do the work really unthrottled on the network no matter where we are.”*

Michael R. Duyck

Fire Chief, Tualatin Valley, Oregon Fire and Rescue



## What You Can Do

FirstNet is being built for first responders. As such, it is important for you to endorse FirstNet to your local and state officials. To prepare governors for FirstNet in your state, local and state leaders need to hear that their first responders want and need it. Tell them how much it would help public safety to have interoperable equipment and designated broadband that will allow you to share large amounts of data anytime, anywhere and without interruption.

[Contact your State Single Point of Contact \(SPOC\) today.](#)

Spread the word about FirstNet in the public safety community, either by word-of-mouth or social media:

- Write to your professional associations such as [International Association of Fire Fighters](#), [International Association of Fire Chiefs](#), [Metropolitan Fire Chiefs](#), and/or the [National Volunteer Fire Council](#), and ask them to pass a resolution in support of FirstNet
- Follow FirstNet at the social media sites below
- Write a guest blog for FirstNet by contacting us at [socialmedia@firstnet.gov](mailto:socialmedia@firstnet.gov)

## About FirstNet

Congress created the First Responder Network Authority in 2012 at the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission. FirstNet is an independent authority that is governed by a 15-member board comprised of fire, police, EMS, 9-1-1, industry representatives, and three federal employees.

## Ways To Connect

FirstNet’s website [www.FirstNet.gov](http://www.FirstNet.gov) is an excellent resource to find information. The FirstNet Communications team is continually adding new fire service material to [YouTube](#) that showcases FirstNet interactions with public safety across the country, and highlights future capabilities as well as educational materials. [FirstNet blogs](#) provide insight into the activities of the FirstNet team and continued consultation with public safety and progress towards the Network. For breaking news alerts, stay connected with your SPOC and engaged with FirstNet on social media.

Reach out to Mike Worrell: [Mike.Worrell@firstnet.gov](mailto:Mike.Worrell@firstnet.gov), or Jeff Johnson, FirstNet Board Vice Chair: [Jeff.Johnson@FirstNet.gov](mailto:Jeff.Johnson@FirstNet.gov).

## Social Media

