

FirstNet[®] 101

The most important wireless network in the country

FirstNet is a nationwide, high-speed wireless broadband network and set of specialized, innovative tools, technologies and features specifically built for public safety.

FirstNet is designed for every first responder in the country – career or volunteer; city, state, tribal or federal; and urban, suburban or rural. Think firefighters, EMS personnel, law enforcement, 9-1-1 communicators and emergency managers. FirstNet is also available to a community of users who are critical to supporting an emergency response – including nurses and physicians, utility companies that clear downed power lines and manage gas leaks and select government officials to support the continuity of government.

Why was it created?

Public safety is called upon to handle emergencies every single day. They must be ready for the worst with the best tools to help them respond as quickly and safely as possible. But first responders have repeatedly struggled to reliably communicate and coordinate across agencies and jurisdictions.

The tragic events of 9/11 underscored this, making it clear that public safety needed a better way to communicate. In 2012, Congress enacted bipartisan legislation that set aside Band 14 spectrum for public safety and created the FirstNet Authority with the mission to make public safety's vision for their network a reality. FirstNet was born to improve public safety communications nationwide.

Making public safety communications a national priority

Why is it unique?

FirstNet is the only communications platform specifically designed with and for public safety based on their direct feedback and needs.

FirstNet is interoperable across agencies. Robust tools and features only found on FirstNet include:

- Always-on, 24-hours-a-day priority and preemption across voice and data for first responders
- Dedicated access to Band 14 spectrum where and when it's needed
- Mission Ready tools – like apps and devices – tested for public safety, plus FirstNet Ready[®] smartphones for first responder agencies
- Access to a dedicated fleet of 180+ portable network assets
- Unparalleled support for public safety's mission
- Government oversight and accountability from the FirstNet Authority

Giving public safety a diverse set of communications capabilities



How does it work?

FirstNet uses a special lane of connectivity called Band 14 – nationwide, high-quality spectrum specifically set aside for FirstNet. During an emergency, this band – or lane – can be cleared and locked just for FirstNet subscribers. First responders on FirstNet have priority and preemption on both Band 14 and AT&T commercial spectrum bands.

Whatever the mission – responding to a routine call, supporting a large event or managing an emergency or disaster – FirstNet gives priority to public safety, so they can connect where and when they need to, to keep us all safer.

Creating a specialized communications highway just for public safety

Why does it matter?

No connection matters more than one that could help save a life. That's why our work to give first responders access to the leading tools that will help them do their important jobs is something we can all feel good about.

Equipping first responders with 24/7 reliable, unthrottled connectivity and an ecosystem of cutting-edge apps, devices and solutions means they can connect to the critical information they need – every day and in every emergency – without worrying about connectivity challenges.

FirstNet is also bringing more reliable communications to rural and tribal communities across the country – covering over 2.99M+ square miles nationwide and growing. That means FirstNet provides 250K+ square miles (roughly the size of Texas) more than the largest commercial networks on average.

Helping public safety achieve their mission as they work to keep us safe

What's AT&T's role?

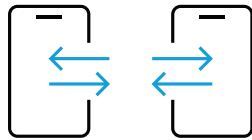
Serving public safety is our mission

AT&T is the official private partner behind FirstNet.

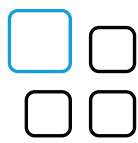
We are working with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) – an independent government agency – to design, build and evolve FirstNet for the next 20+ years.

By The Numbers

7M+
FirstNet
connections[†]



~30K
Public safety agencies
and organizations subscribed



175+
apps in the FirstNet
App Catalog



885
FirstNet Ready[®]
devices

AMERICA'S PUBLIC SAFETY NETWORK

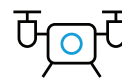
2.99M+
Square miles
of coverage



250K+
Square miles more than
commercial networks on average



180+ Dedicated assets in the FirstNet fleet



64%
Increase in Tribal
Land coverage*



2575+
Solutions triaged
and deployed last year



*Since the start of the FirstNet Build

What are others saying about it?

"FirstNet is spurring innovation that will help save lives, and we are thrilled to see the network continue to grow to reach more communities and responders that serve them across the country," said Joe Wassel, FirstNet CEO.



[†]As of Q1 2025