

FIRSTNET REAUTHORIZATION

The FirstNet Authority is the only dedicated nationwide broadband network for our nation's first responders. It is designed to provide reliable, secure, and fast communication for first responders to help them stay connected and coordinated during emergencies.

Background

FirstNet was established at the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission Report to develop the first and only nationwide, high-speed broadband network dedicated to public safety.

AT&T won an open competition for a 25-year contract with the FirstNet Authority to build, operate, and maintain the network.

With oversight from the congressionally mandated Public Safety Advisory Committee and independent Board of Directors, FirstNet is constantly adjusting to the needs of the public safety community.

The authorization for the FirstNet Authority, the federal agency overseeing the FirstNet network, is scheduled to sunset in 2027. Without reauthorization, the existing contract could be terminated, threatening to end network services. Without reauthorization, FirstNet's fee reinvestment model is also at risk. Today, FirstNet is completely self-funded and receives no taxpayer dollars

[GAO has noted that Congress should reauthorize FirstNet.](#)

Ask

- ▶ Reauthorize FirstNet in the 119th Congress to protect public safety communication. Ensure the fire and emergency services voice is protected and respected within the FirstNet governance and oversight structure.

Talking Points

▶ Ensuring Reliable Communications

Reauthorizing FirstNet guarantees that first responders have a reliable, dedicated network to communicate quickly during emergencies, even when commercial networks are overloaded.

▶ Improving Safety for First Responders

FirstNet helps keep first responders safer by enabling coordination in dangerous situations and developing purpose-built technology for public safety.

▶ Improving Disaster Response

FirstNet's network has vastly improved public safety communications at numerous major disasters, including hurricanes, wildfires, building collapses and more.

▶ Maximizing Cost Efficiency with Public-Private Partnerships

The reinvestment fee framework and spectrum sale proceeds that fund FirstNet help to ensure buy-in from stakeholders and effective use of revenues.

