



First Responder Network Authority Update October 11, 2022

Contract Management, Oversight and Public Safety Advocacy

The FirstNet Authority is hiring a New Executive Director

[USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#)



FEATURED PUBLIC SAFETY ENGAGEMENT



Recognize Your Colleagues: Nominate someone for the Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award

In 2017, the FirstNet Authority established the Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award to recognize the spirit of service, commitment, and dedication of the nation's first responders. The honor is given annually to an individual who has contributed to the advancement of public safety broadband communications.

The honor was established to recognize **Chief (ret.) Harlin R. McEwen** who was a driving force in the establishment of FirstNet and was the founding chair of the FirstNet Authority's [Public Safety Advisory Committee](#) (PSAC). Nominations are now open for the 2022 award.

Past recipients of the McEwen award have included:

2018 – Tom Sorley

The FirstNet Authority Board posthumously bestowed the McEwen award to [Tom Sorely](#) in recognition of his extraordinary experience, expertise, and leadership serving as the chair of the PSAC. Under Sorley's leadership, the PSAC prepared public safety agencies for the adoption of FirstNet, helped develop the FirstNet Authority's Tribal Consultation policy, and provided valuable input throughout the state plan review process and Governors' opt-in decision period.

2019 – Sheriff Neil A. Miller

Buffalo County [Sheriff Neil Miller](#) received the McEwen Award in 2019 for his remarkable leadership and significant contributions to the advancement of public safety broadband communications across Nebraska. Sheriff Miller transformed emergency communication for Nebraska's responders by advancing the use of technology solutions in rural communities.

2020 – Chief Jeffrey Lane

Gainesville Fire Rescue [Chief Jeffrey Lane](#) received the McEwen Award in 2020 for his outstanding leadership and contributions to advancing broadband communications for public safety personnel in Florida. Chief Lane is known for implementing a city-wide integrated communications system that benefits public safety agencies and communities across the area.

2021 – Chief (ret.) Mike Duyck

Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue [Chief \(ret.\) Mike Duyck](#) was honored with the McEwen Award in 2021 for making significant contributions to advance emergency communications in the state of Oregon and across the nation. Throughout his career, Chief Duyck aided in the transformation of the nation's 9-1-1 system, ensuring it is up to date, interoperable, and secure against cyberattacks.

Nominations for the 2022 McEwen Award are open. To nominate an individual, download the [nomination form](#) and email the completed form to: info@firstnet.gov. Submissions requested by Friday, October 14, 2022.

[Nominate your candidate today](#)

13SEP2022

Drones keep firefighters safe during fertilizer plant blaze

- By Gary McCarraher, Senior Public Safety Advisor, First Responder Network Authority

Fire departments around the country are investing in drone technology to keep firefighters safe. Division Chief **Dan Cremeans** of the Durham Fire Department in North Carolina used the agency's drone program to support operations and protect his team during a fertilizer plant fire.

15SEP2022

FirstNet Authority Board member advocates for mindfulness in public safety

- By First Responder Network Authority

Chief Sylvia Moir is a police executive with more than three decades of local police practice and over a decade of experience as a chief of police. She was appointed to the FirstNet Authority Board by the Secretary of Commerce in October 2021. Chief Moir recently shared her perspectives with us on FirstNet, her service on the board, and the role of mindfulness in policing.

29SEP2022

FirstNet keeps Michigan responders communicating in the path of a tornado

- By Jon Olson, Senior Public Safety Advisor, First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority)

One rule of public safety is to be ready for anything. Deputy Chief **Gavin Babieracki** of Otsego County EMS Rescue shares his experience responding when a tornado struck his community, a rare event in northern Michigan. Though the tornado was unexpected, Babieracki and his team were prepared with FirstNet and other technologies to keep first responders connected throughout the disaster.

Latest Podcast:

[Episode 65: FirstNet: keeping the oldest city in the country connected](#)



In St. Augustine, Florida, public safety officials navigate obstacles ranging from antiquated infrastructure causing connectivity issues to saturated networks due to tourism and special events. With the adoption of FirstNet, the police department, fire department, and other city agencies are using the network to reliably communicate throughout the oldest city in the country.

Featured FirstNet Authority Video: [Integrating FirstNet into disaster operations - YouTube](#)

2022 FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Committees Meeting Schedule

- Wednesday, November 16, 2022, Washington, DC / Virtual

Until next month!

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