

# WI FirstNet

## WI Interoperability Initiative

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Issue 1

### WI FirstNet Newsletter Debuts!

Welcome to the Wisconsin FirstNet newsletter! My intention is to provide stakeholders (e.g., you!) with relevant information and news about the National Public Safety Broadband Network Process in Wisconsin, as well as providing our contact information so you can ask questions and provide feedback. Please note that this newsletter is produced by the Wisconsin Interoperability Initiative, and not by the First Responder Network Authority.



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#### What is FirstNet?

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) is an independent organization under NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) tasked with building, operating and maintaining a nationwide, resilient, wireless broadband network dedicated to public

safety. Think of the life-saving possibilities of a cellular network reserved exclusively for public safety use. The way your organization uses data services today, and more, will be available with priority, reliability, and a sole focus on public safety functionality and applications.



## New Announcements from FirstNet

-New outreach materials are available on the FirstNet website. Print-friendly fact sheets designed for EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement, Land Mobile Radio, and Elected Officials, as well as Powerpoint Presentations, may be found here.

<http://firstnet.gov/resources>

- Every state will do an "initial consultation" with FirstNet in the near future. Essentially, the initial

consultation is a conversation between FirstNet representatives and the state, discussing things like the state governance process, eligible users, coverage, public safety stakeholders, upcoming public safety meetings and events, and any other state-specific information. Maryland is scheduled to conduct theirs first, on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Currently, Wisconsin is working to

complete its initial consultation checklist so that our initial consultation with FirstNet can be scheduled.

## Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) administered by NTIA provided funding for seven public safety projects (test networks) in 2010. As a result, FirstNet reached spectrum manager lease agreements with the Los Angeles Regional

Interoperable Communications Systems Authority (LA-RICS), Adams County, Colorado (ADCOM-911), the State of New Jersey and the State of New Mexico. Adams County has since went "live" with their network as of June 2014,

making them the first in the nation to implement an official public safety broadband network with the approval of FirstNet. Their practical progress will be a great learning experience as other areas follow suit in the next few years.

*Adams County has since went "live" with their network as of June 2014.*

## "State of the States" Webinar Wednesday, July 23rd

On Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at 1:00 PM, key state leaders, along with Amanda Hilliard, FirstNet's director of outreach, will be sharing their ideas about the FirstNet planning process. Registration for the event is open to all, and is free. Please

consider signing up to listen in [here](#).

## Wisconsin Interoperability Initiative Contact Information

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Southeast- Vacant

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## Please Provide Your Feedback!

This being our first newsletter, we want to hear what you have to say. Any questions, comments, or recommendations on the newsletter itself, or the process, will be heard and quickly addressed. Please call or email Terek Taillon, and I will reply within one business day.

You, as public safety professionals, are who we serve. We want to provide

the best service possible, and in the end, implement and operate a public safety broadband network which will help save lives and make your jobs easier.

I tentatively plan to make this a quarterly newsletter. If you'd like to see it released monthly instead, please send me an email.

Follow us on social media!

Facebook: WI FirstNet group

Twitter: @WI\_FirstNet