

The InfoGram



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FirstNet update: full implementation scheduled for March 2018

As of this writing, 23 states and territories have opted in to the [FirstNet](#) network, the nation's first high-speed broadband public safety network. FirstNet reaches the half-way point with the addition of Texas and Idaho this week; so far, none of the 56 states or territories have opted out.

This new network will connect all first responders through voice, video and data, enabling different agencies and jurisdictions access to the same information and applications. FirstNet requirements are being driven by public safety needs, and applications are vetted before implementation.

FirstNet will also have push capabilities, meaning information and applications can be sent to first responders at the scene. This improves situational awareness in the field, critical to first responder safety in the current threat environment.

Things are moving quickly with FirstNet after years of planning. AT&T holds the contract for development and full implementation is currently scheduled for March 2018, right around the corner. For more information on FirstNet, the opportunities it provides, and what law enforcement, fire and EMS leaders across the country are saying, visit the [FirstNet website](#) or the [FirstNet YouTube channel](#).

(Source: [FirstNet](#))

Law Enforcement Mental Health Learning Sites Program

There is a segment of the population that needs mental health care but somehow slips through the cracks and never receives care. Law enforcement officers are often in a position to help these people find the right services, offices, or doctors, but in many cases officers don't have the necessary training or information. Law enforcement departments interested in addressing this gap also have trouble figuring out exactly what programs and training their officers need.

The Council of State Governments Justice Center is partnering with the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, seeking applicants for the [Law Enforcement-Mental Health Learning Sites Program](#). This program is designed to identify and highlight agencies from across the country with successful police-mental health collaboration programs between the law enforcement and mental health systems that are willing to share their expertise with the field.

There are currently [six departments selected to highlighted successful programs](#). Examples of strategies from these departments include having mental health professionals embedded in the law enforcement agency, officers trained as mental health liaisons, officer follow-up on mental health calls, autism training and Crisis Intervention Teams.

Jurisdictions interested in sharing their successful mental health-related programs must submit a letter of interest and application along with all supporting documents no later than October 27, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern. Departments interested in developing a program should review the [Police-Mental Health Collaboration website and toolkit](#).

(Source: [Council of State Governments](#))

Highlights

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Tactical EMS vs. the Rescue Task Force

Mandatory nationwide test of Emergency Alert System September 27



U.S. Fire Administration

The InfoGram is distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures.

Tactical EMS vs. the Rescue Task Force

Many jurisdictions have tactical medics, also known as Tactical EMS, attached to SWAT teams to respond to and treat downed SWAT team members during violent incidents such as active shooters. While these teams have their place, it still leaves a gap in medical response to the victims of violence. Creation of a [Rescue Task Force](#) (RTF) can address this gap.

RTF teams move into the warm zone with law enforcement but [focus on treating and stabilizing the victims of violence](#). They gain access to victims when the area has been secured but not necessarily after the threat has been eliminated. RTF teams usually enter the warm zone with armed law enforcement escorts.

Though the idea of sending EMS personnel into an active violent situation is somewhat controversial, there are several models for these teams including training law enforcement officers as medics. Whichever model is chosen as best for your departments and jurisdiction, [repetitive and comprehensive training](#) is key to learning to work as a multi-agency team and making sure the job is done safely.

For more information on RTF teams, consider the upcoming webinar “How to validate the Rescue Task Force concept through exercises,” being held Wednesday, October 4, 1-2 p.m. Eastern. They will discuss lessons learned from exercises that can improve planning and training of RTF teams. Please see the [International Public Safety Association event webpage](#) for registration details.

(Source: [IPSA](#))

Mandatory nationwide test of Emergency Alert System September 27

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), will hold a mandatory nationwide test of the [Emergency Alert System](#) (EAS) on September 27, 2017, at 2:20 p.m. Eastern. The test will assess the distribution of a national level test message, as well as verify its delivery.

The EAS test will be held on radio, television, cable, and direct broadcast satellite systems, and is scheduled to last approximately one minute. The test’s message will be similar to the regular monthly test message of the EAS with which the public is familiar. This is the third mandatory nationwide test of the EAS.

Conducting the test following Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose, and Maria will provide insight into the resiliency of our national-level alerting capabilities in impacted areas. The test will also provide valuable data into how the Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System performs during and following a variety of conditions. With four major hurricanes already making landfall, and a potential for more before the end of hurricane season in November, we need to have the ability to maintain the continuity of critical infrastructure under various conditions.

The back-up date for the test is October 4, 2017, at 2:20 p.m. Eastern, in case the September 27 test is cancelled.

(Source: [FEMA](#))

The U.S. Fire Administration maintains the Emergency Management and Response – Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC). For information regarding the EMR-ISAC visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov.

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