

Newsletter

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Cell site launches helping to provide public safety critical infrastructure upgrades

In the last year, the FirstNet platform, has continued to expand across the country with the launch of cell sites purpose-built to help ensure first responders are getting coverage where they need it most.

The FirstNet build is being carried out with direct feedback from state and public safety officials, and it is constructing the sites using the FirstNet Band 14 spectrum, as well as other spectrum bands in the AT&T commercial spectrum portfolio. In July 2018, FirstNet announced plans to build a new cell site in Bedford County, Pa., as part of its FirstNet build.

In just the first 8 months of the year, we announced 8 new cell sites already launched in or coming to:

- Baltimore County, part of [Maryland's FirstNet build](#), which is bringing increased coverage and capacity to first responders across the state
- Preston County, part of the [expansion in West Virginia](#) with a site in Fellowsville
- The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation, part of the [expansion in Wisconsin](#) with a site on tribal land north of the Legendary Waters Casino & Resort

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Supporting those who support first responders



Helping utilities support first responders

Many utilities don't realize they may qualify for FirstNet. Hear Del Oro Water Company CFO Bryan Fortino explain how FirstNet streamlines processes and helps keep employees safe as they support first responders. [WATCH VIDEO](#)

“Adding FirstNet to our layers of security gives me great peace of mind”

By Tony Furman

Principal, Blocker Middle School
Texas City Independent School District

One of my key roles as a middle school principal is to ensure that students feel safe when they're at school – because students can't learn if they don't feel like they're in a safe environment.

My job is to set up that environment – the facilities, the processes and the procedures – for them to have that safety and security. That goes for our teachers, as well.

Teachers play a huge role in the safety

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Prepared for any emergency

Texas City Independent School District assigned FirstNet Ready™ phones to its superintendent, principals and assistant principals. So that no matter the emergency, they will be able to communicate with first responders. [WATCH VIDEO](#)

Bringing all the elements together in a lifesaving way

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and security of our school and our students. They're on the front lines for us. They are the eyes and ears of the school.

So we need to be prepared for any type of situation throughout the year – whether it be a medical situation, a fire, or a weather-related emergency. And having quick, reliable communication is key to being able to respond to any situation.

That's where FirstNet comes in.

Prepared for emergencies

As a principal, I was not directly involved with selecting FirstNet. But Mike Matranga, Texas City ISD's Executive Director for Safety and Security, talked with all the principals to get our input on what we needed.

We talked about our priorities for safety and what we viewed as high-need areas.

From my perspective, it was important to have a system that was easily accessible, user-friendly and that could help us communicate quickly and reliably.

With FirstNet, we have that. I'm able to interact with our School Liaison Officers and with police and other administrators. When we have a situation – any type of emergency situation – having access to law enforcement and medical personnel is critical.

User-friendly training

Our training on the devices also was very user-friendly. We learned how to access the device, the apps we could use and all the accessibility features.

After the training, I felt very comfortable knowing that I could use my FirstNet device in any emergency.

With the touch of a button on our FirstNet device, we can summon the right kind of help, depending on the situation we're in – whether it's



There are a lot of members of the emergency response team who are not nurses and doctors or folks you would think about for care. But it's impossible for medical experts to do their job without them.

“With the touch of a button on our FirstNet device, we can summon the right kind of help, depending on the situation we're in – whether it's a medical emergency, a staff assist or even a possible school intruder.”

– Tony Furman,
Principal, Blocker Middle School

a medical emergency, a staff assist, or even a possible school intruder.

Adding FirstNet to our layers of security really gives me a great peace of mind. It's comforting to have that direct, reliable communication in any type of emergency. And I'm speaking as both an administrator and a parent.

Reliable communication

Other school districts and agencies around us should look at FirstNet. Seeing firsthand how our neighbors in Santa

Fe struggled with communications issues during the shooting that took ten lives there – that crystallized this decision for us.

When you're in these situations and others are tying up the network, it makes it hard to communicate with first responders and others who are in your emergency plan. Having that priority status, you're able to communicate much better with each other and develop a good response plan.

You have to be prepared for any situation that comes your way. And during an emergency situation, there's no greater tool than access to reliable communication.

With FirstNet, I feel like we're very prepared.

Tony Furman is the principal at Blocker Middle School in the Texas City Independent School District. He's been an educator for 16 years, with 11 of those as an administrator and the last 7 seven years as a principal. The Texas City school district comprises both the cities of Texas City and La Marque.

Working to find solutions providers who share the FirstNet vision

Editor's Note: This article is part of an ongoing series of profiles on the people and faces behind the FirstNet Program at AT&T and what motivates them every day.

Milly Li is the director of partnerships for the FirstNet Program, Built with AT&T, and has been with the company for the last 5 years.

For the last 18 months, her sole focus has been on working with providers to help develop applications that help first responders and those who support them do their jobs. That could be anything from security solutions to healthcare applications to collaboration and situational awareness technologies.

Milly considers herself lucky to be working on the FirstNet team.

"I wanted to explore other areas of the business. And I thought FirstNet was a great opportunity," says Milly. "My boss was super supportive. And it just so happened that they needed my help with mobility and applications and system integration – which is what I was doing already."

Before coming to AT&T, Milly had spent 15 years doing applications and system integration work – including E-applications and API design development – for another company.

Application strategy

The big difference with working on FirstNet, Milly says, is the emphasis on the critical mission of first responders.

"We're helping public safety with a response to modern and evolving threats," she says. "They need applications that will help keep them safe. And FirstNet is transforming public safety through these purpose-built solutions."

Milly says her team looks for solutions providers who share the FirstNet vision.



SPOTLIGHT PROFILE

Milly Li

"This whole thing was born out of 9/11. I lived in Manhattan at the time and the Twin Towers had always been my South Pole... I could look toward the Twin Towers and know that that was the way home. After the terrorist attacks, that void was a reminder every day of what we lost."

For example, Pulsara – a mobile technology that simplifies patient care and coordination – wanted to create a communications channel to reduce the time it takes to help patients. Pulsara has developed a regional patient data communication application that lets emergency personnel send audio, video, messages, images and alerts. It's listed in the FirstNet App Catalog.

"This is something that directly impacts a patient's life," she adds.

Intrepid, a situational awareness solution for law enforcement, has that vision as well, says Milly. With the app, which is also in the FirstNet App Catalog, teams can coordinate, collaborate and communicate.

The best job

"My job is to figure out who these potential partners are and pull them together onto our platform," she says. "I set the strategy for the application roadmap. I work with partners at AT&T to evolve that roadmap."

One side of it is meeting with solution providers – wherever they are – and working with them to bring these solutions to FirstNet.

"Working with partners like that, I also get to speak with public safety agencies to find out their pain points and determine the FirstNet value for them," she says.

Despite the hectic schedule, Milly believes she has "the best job" in the world.

A compass for life

On a personal level, Milly says her daughter and son drive her to do her best work.

"Being a good role model for them, like my parents were for me, is important," she says. "There's nothing like having a hot meal at the dinner table together and talking about the day. It's really the simple things that matter."

From a professional perspective, she says, "just seeing people work tirelessly to advance the FirstNet mission, whether in the community or in the office, is inspiring."

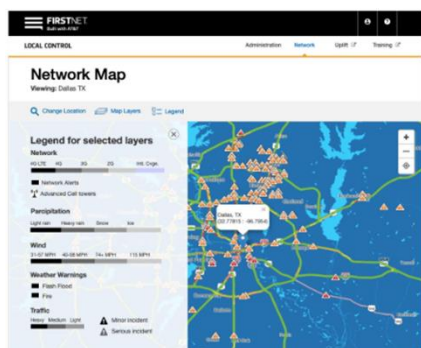
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New features for FirstNet users

Network Status Map Enhancements

- The basic map shows network coverage, network alerts, vehicular traffic and weather, including fire, flash flood and high winds. Among the improvements in the user experience and navigation within Local Control:
 - Show/hide legend – replacing the static legend
 - User does not need to scroll down to manage filters



FirstNet leader-led Training available

- To help you use and manage features of FirstNet Local Control, leader led training is currently available. These courses are intended for FirstNet administrators, operations and Uplift managers and are available at no additional charge.
- [Instructor-led courses](#) help you learn to manage your administrative needs for FirstNet wireless services. Plus, you'll have an opportunity to ask questions and get answers from the instructor in real time. Each 1-hour course is designed to efficiently and effectively manage your FirstNet service and get answers to your questions in real time! These courses will enable you to:
 - Effectively use Uplift Management
 - Manage user profiles, services, and mobile devices
 - Shop for/customize: rate plans, wireless devices, and mobile solutions
 - View wireless-account reports and information.

Working to find solutions providers who share the FirstNet vision

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always look toward the Twin Towers and know that that was the way home.

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Built for public safety

Now she wants first responders – and all those who support them – to know that FirstNet is their network. In a

word, she says, FirstNet is a mission.

“FirstNet is an ecosystem,” she says. “The network, devices, applications, partners are all done with public safety in mind. These are their tools, their network.”

“I believe as a result of FirstNet, we will be able to help resolve those modern, evolving threats and help public safety,” she says. “Plus, we’re being held accountable under a federal contract to deliver this. And that’s very different from any commercial provider.”

FirstNet cell site launches continue to bring public safety a critical infrastructure upgrade

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- Warren County in North Carolina, with one cell site in [Warrenton and another near Lake Gaston](#)
- **Fairfax and Prince William counties**, part of the [expansion in Virginia](#), with the addition of 2 new cell sites at the Fairfax County Courthouse and in Manassas – located near Lomond Drive and Fairmont Ave.
- **Talbot County in Maryland**, part of the [expansion in the state](#), with the addition of a cell site in Tilghman Island.

We have also continued to increase coverage and capacity across the country, deploying Band 14 spectrum on existing sites nationwide – now live in about 650¹ markets. Nearly 9,000 public safety agencies and organizations are now subscribed to FirstNet, accounting for over 750,000 connections in service.²

And the numbers are growing daily. For the second consecutive quarter, FirstNet brings subscribers the fastest overall network experience. According to the results of tests taken with Speedtest as analyzed by AT&T, FirstNet once again performed faster than any commercial network.³

FirstNet is moving quickly with about 65% of our nationwide coverage targets completed well ahead of schedule. The more we roll out Band 14 across the country, the more we’re able to provide first responders with truly dedicated coverage and capacity when they need it. This helps them connect to critical information, communicate and coordinate.

¹Markets defined by FCC CMAs.

²As of Aug. 12, 2019, [announcement](#).

³Based on AT&T analysis of Ookla® Speedtest Intelligence® data average download speeds for Q2 2019. Ookla trademarks used under license and reprinted with permission.