

Newsletter

July 2018

Making connectivity count – from the field to the ER

The Village of University Park adopted FirstNet because officials wanted a reliable network that would meet their needs. One such need is the ability to send EKG data directly from the field to the hospital, enabling doctors there to make treatment decisions before the patient arrives.

[Watch the video](#)



When seconds count

Village of University Park counts on FirstNet

First responders know the frustration when communications go down. And for public safety, connection problems aren't just frustrating. They can be deadly. Information holds the power to save lives. So, if they don't know what's happening, no amount of training in the world is going to help alleviate a threat or save a life.

Unreliable technology and the lack of interoperability between agencies create gaps in information needed to make critical, split-second decisions. And that's exactly why the City of University Park signed on to FirstNet.

The Village of University Park straddles Cook and Will counties, which highlights a unique situation the city faces every day. It must be able to communicate public safety concerns with several city and state partners. Without an efficient tool for communication between agencies, even its best response efforts face handicaps.

"The village of University Park has a lot of the same challenges that larger cities have, albeit on a much smaller scale due to population and square footage," said Brian Chellios, University Park Fire Chief.

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Band 14 added to more than 2,500 sites

We've been actively deploying public safety's Band 14 spectrum as part of the FirstNet build. The First Responder Network Authority will validate the buildout, which will ultimately bring first responders the additional coverage and capacity they need. So far, Band 14 has been added to more than 2,500 sites across the country – with the process for 10,000+ more currently underway. And the first FirstNet-dedicated deployable network assets are ready for use. FirstNet is the nationwide public safety communications platform dedicated to America's first responders.

Being built with AT&T, in public-private partnership with the FirstNet Authority, FirstNet is bringing public safety a much-needed technology upgrade to help them connect to the critical information they need. Every day. And in every emergency.

"Since getting the green light to deploy Band 14 in March of this year, we've been moving quickly to bring first responders the additional coverage and capacity that only their network can provide," said Chris Sambar, senior vice president, AT&T – FirstNet Program. "What's more, the FirstNet build is based off direct feedback from the states and public safety community. So, each current or new site to get Band 14

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OTHER NEWS

FirstNet earns Ovum's Innovative Service Award

Ovum, an independent analyst and consultancy firm specializing in global coverage of Telecommunications, has named FirstNet as Ovum's Innovative Service of the Month. The London-based company said it reviewed "53 announcements of innovative services launched by service providers around the world in April 2018." And it

selected FirstNet – the nationwide public safety communications platform dedicated to you.

How FirstNet can help in crisis situations

Today's public safety community faces a variety of challenges that test training and technological capabilities. One of the most tragic

– and increasingly common – situations to which a first responder may be called is an active shooter.

Ryan Fields-Spack, a former paramedic and fire captain aided in the response and investigation of the Aurora Theater shooting and bombing scene on July 20, 2012 in Colorado. He brings a unique perspective to this situation.

[Read the White Paper](#)

FirstNet lets city agencies communicate with each other in near real-time – so they can make those split-second decisions based on the most up-to-date information.



University Park counts on FirstNet

(from front page)

"But the same things that everyone sees on the news every day have the same potential to occur here.

In addition, the city deals "with mass transportation systems with Interstate 57, the Canadian National Railroad, passenger train service. We have large places of assembly such as Governors State University."

And that's another reason the city chose FirstNet – so it could have communication options between agencies.

FirstNet allows the city agencies to communicate with each other in near real-time – so they can make those split-second decisions based on the most up-to-date information from every agency.

This results in greater safety for the public and first responders. That consistent access to voice, data and video gives them the confidence they need to make the right choices in a crisis.

"Personally, it gives me a sense of ease and more of a calming sense, knowing that FirstNet can provide us with communication security, a level of reliability that sometimes we may not always get out of our radio systems," Chellios said.

"I say that because being the chief of this organization, my personnel are my responsibility. They're my family. Their families are my families," he said. "Ensuring that I can maintain consistent, safe communications with them – it gives me that chance to do everything I can to make sure they got home at the end of their shifts."

Band 14 deployments underway in 50 states and Puerto Rico

(from front page)

helps to meet public safety's specific network needs."

Band 14 is nationwide, high-quality spectrum set aside by the government specifically for FirstNet. Once Band 14 is fully deployed over the next several years, it will cover 95% or more of the U.S. population.

- Band 14 deployments are underway in 50 states and Puerto Rico. And it's already on-air for testing in 40+ states. This includes California, Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Texas. Band 14 will continue to be rapidly deployed nationwide and submitted to the FirstNet Authority for validation.
- More than 1,000 new sites are planned as part of the FirstNet Band 14 build. This will help close rural coverage gaps in areas like Bedford County, Pa., where responses to emergencies have been previously challenged by a lack of connectivity.

FirstNet Ready [devices](#) with built-in Band 14 access are available to first responders.



SPOTLIGHT PROFILE

Dan Biglin

Today, Biglin meets with local chiefs of police, fire and EMS organizations to talk about the benefits of FirstNet and help groups understand the value. He says it's "the best job ever."

[Watch the video](#)

Biglin's work as volunteer fire captain and on the FirstNet Program is his way of saying thanks

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.

Daniel Biglin missed his usual train to work at One Liberty Plaza – just east of the World Trade Center complex – on Sept. 11, 2001.

He had to take his 4-year-old daughter, Morgan, to her second day of pre-school in Westfield, N.J. that day. She was excited to show her dad her new school – the books, the toys, the playground, her cubby. She wouldn't let go of his hand.

Later that morning, as Biglin waited on the platform for the next train, a voice on the loudspeaker announced that all trains into lower Manhattan had been delayed. An aircraft had hit the North Tower.

"I figured it was a small commuter plane or perhaps a tourist helicopter," said Biglin, who now works on the FirstNet Program at AT&T. "So, I went home and turned on the TV news. It was a few minutes after 9. I was just in time to see the 2nd plane hit the South Tower.

That experience drove Biglin to sign on as a volunteer firefighter in Scotch Plains – and later to join the FirstNet Program at AT&T. He needed to help so he could heal.

"My wife always says she's thankful I was not in the city on 9/11 because she knows that if I had survived the initial attack, I would have been inside helping others evacuate when the buildings collapsed," said Biglin. "Before I started

"Before I started working in the city, I was an EMT in New Jersey. I rode with a heavy rescue company. I just had that nature of wanting to help in times of crisis."

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Day after day, there was the constant hum of jackhammers, Biglin said.

"At times, the site would go totally silent. I'd look out the window and see all the first responders lining the ramp that led out of the pit. They stood in silence as a flag-draped stretcher brought another victim up to a waiting ambulance."

As he watched the rescue crews, Daniel realized he needed to help so he could heal from the ordeal. With his wife's blessing, he signed on as a volunteer firefighter in Scotch Plains. Today, he's a captain in the department.

The tech company he worked for lost most of its customers in the terrorist attacks, and soon shut down. Daniel went to work for AT&T, joining its FirstNet team in 2013.

Today, he meets with local chiefs of police, fire and EMS organizations to explain FirstNet benefits. He says it's "the best job ever."