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COLONEL
WILLIAM M. PALLOZZI
SUPERINTENDENT

May 8, 2015

Dear 911/Primary Answering Point Director:

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) as an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to provide emergency responders with the first high speed wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. The FirstNet network will be a single, nationwide long term evolution (LTE) network that makes it easier for public safety users to communicate during emergencies and on the job every day. The FirstNet network could be viewed as a bigger, more reliable, secure and resilient wireless data network. This new network will provide faster access to information and wireless coverage where public safety personnel need it most.

The FirstNet network will enable faster, more informed and better coordinated response to incidents. Just as smartphones have changed personal lives, FirstNet devices and applications will ultimately change the way public safety personnel and agencies operate. Imagine a day when one interoperable communications network can be used to dispatch police, fire, and EMS personnel from different jurisdictions all at the same time. Public safety personnel, emergency management, 911 Centers and others using the FirstNet network will be able to share images, data, video, applications, and access to databases to have a common operational picture as incidents unfold.

Maryland is required to provide FirstNet public safety data which includes device types and numbers in use, numbers of first responders and other information at every level of government. Other states and territories are required to gather the same information. Maryland, like all other states, will provide this data to FirstNet which will use this data to build Maryland's plan for our portion of the network. Therefore, cooperation with this comprehensive data collection effort at all levels will only serve to provide a more detailed picture of your current and future needs, which will drive network design and construction for Maryland.

The deadline for this data national and statewide collection effort is June 19th. Again, your assistance in providing detailed data on your agency and its use of devices and cellular networks will only assist us in ensuring the design and build-out of an effective and robust network for all public safety agencies in Maryland.

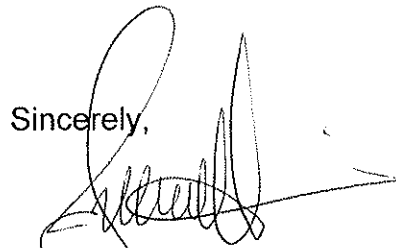
FirstNet Data Request

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To assist you with this effort, we have provided additional information (attached) and also set up some webinars which will assist you in completing this collection and allow questions to be asked and answered. A similar request for different data sets has gone to your local fire/police/sheriffs department. To learn more about the ongoing work on FirstNet in Maryland, please visit our website at <http://firstnet.maryland.gov>.

Thank you for your support with this critical task which will enable us to build the very best network together for all of Maryland's public safety agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Hasenei', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Major Ken Hasenei
Chief Information Officer
Maryland FiRST and FirstNet Program Manager

Planning for FirstNet in Maryland

We need your help

We are currently in the planning stage of “FirstNet” – a national effort to build a high-speed 4G LTE data network for first responders. Commercial networks were not designed to support public safety needs, and they can become unreliable or overwhelmed in emergencies. FirstNet will give first responders the ability to communicate at all times and in all situations using this network dedicated to public safety. The Maryland FirstNet Broadband team, under the direction of the Maryland State Police, has been working with Public Safety agencies around the State to educate them about FirstNet, demonstrating why the network is needed and how it will allow first responders to improve communications and perform their job more safely.

How we will use your data

Now the effort is underway to plan for the Network’s design, here in Maryland and across the county. We are ready to collect and analyze fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical calls for service from each emergency department in the State. In a separate request we are also asking each public safety agency around the State to provide us with information about users and operational areas, devices, and providers and procurement.

We recognize the sensitivity of the calls for service data, and we will aggregate the call locations to a .25 square mile grid of the State. Generalizing the data to this scale will protect the sensitivity of the data. If you would like to pre-anonymize your data before you send it to us, you are welcome to do so. Our analyses will also be provided to your jurisdiction for your use.

We will use the information that we receive to develop our State network design and show our needed coverage, capacity, and approximate number of potential users. We are asking every jurisdiction to participate in this process to help us get the best understanding of First Responder data usage and needs in Maryland.

Who will use your data

The Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) at Salisbury University will receive, house, and process your calls for service data on Salisbury University's secure servers. The ESRGC has a password-protected ftp dedicated to receive the data. The ESRGC has years of experience working with sensitive and confidential data and can guarantee your data will not be shared or released to other parties. All calls for service data will be destroyed once the data has been processed and aggregated to a quarter mile grid. Calls for service data will be deleted from the secure servers after 60 days from delivery.

What we need

Here is the detailed list of information about your calls for service that we are requesting.

Dispatch Operations: We are interested in calls for service that took place from January 1, 2014 at 12:00 a.m. to December 31, 2014 at 11:59 p.m. Calls for service data can be received as .txt, .csv, or GIS files (shapefile or geodatabase).

a. We are asking for the following information about each call:

1. Call for Service ID – Number that uniquely identifies each call for service
2. Call Type ID – Number that identifies the type of call
3. Call Type – Description of each type of call for service
4. Priority ID – Number that identifies the priority level of each call
5. Dispatch Date Time – Date and time the unit is dispatched for each call
6. Close Date Time – Date and time each call is closed
7. Address ID – Number that uniquely identifies each address
8. Address – House number, street address, and zip code for each call for service location
9. Address Latitude/Longitude – Latitude and longitude of call for service location
10. Unit Type ID – Number that uniquely identifies the response unit
11. Unit Type – Description of type of unit responding to call

b. Examples of information not needed about the calls for service data:

1. Personnel information
2. Phone numbers from the calls for service
3. Billing rates

How to deliver your data

1. Export your calls for service data as .txt, .csv, or GIS files (tables, shapefiles, or geodatabases).
2. Contact Mary Buffington at ESRGC: mebuffington@salisbury.edu or 410.548.3844 for access and login information when you are ready to upload the data.
3. All data should be zipped and uploaded to the ESRGC's secure ftp (<https://suftp.salisbury.edu/thinclient>).
4. We may require additional emergency service data including police, fire, and EMS service boundaries, and station locations. Please include this data with your calls for service data upload as shapefiles or .kmz files if you maintain this data. If you are not responsible for its maintenance, please contact Mary with the department or person that maintains the data.

We're Here to Help

We are happy to assist you in any way we can. Our goal is to ensure that FirstNet in Maryland meets the needs of our First Responders, so your feedback and participation is critically important to us. If you would like us to come to you and give an introduction and overview of FirstNet and what it will mean for First Responders, we would be happy to do so. If you have any questions on data collection or would like to answer these questions during a face-to-face meeting, please contact Lori Stone, Acting FirstNet Single Point of Contact for Maryland at lori.stone@maryland.gov or 443-622-9637. You can also learn more about FirstNet and our work in Maryland on our website: <http://firstnet.maryland.gov/>