FirstNet Colorado

The Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) will be the first high-speed interoperable wireless, broadband data and cellular voice network dedicated to public safety, which will facilitate communication for first responders' daily and in the event of emergencies. It will provide a resilient network with public safety-grade quality of service, and local control of prioritization and preemption, enabling access to applications and system coverage where public safety needs it most. The First Responder Network Authority or FirstNet is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration tasked with the implementation of the nation wide network. FirstNet Colorado is the program within Colorado responsible for working with local and state stakeholders to ensure Colorado's requirements and needs are integrated into the nationwide effort.

What does this mean for responders?
- Resilient, reliable and secure public safety broadband network
- Priority access, preemption and input on network quality of service
- Competitive service and device pricing
- A public safety focused device and application ecosystem
- Nationwide interoperability

Why is it important to participate?
- FirstNet will present a state plan (including implementation and cost details) in mid to late 2017
- The Governor has 90 days after state plan is provided to "Opt-In" for FirstNet to build the network in Colorado or to "Opt-Out" for Colorado to build its own network to connect back to FirstNet (called an Alternative Plan)
- The FirstNet Colorado Governing Body is doing extensive work to provide the Governor with an Alternative Plan to compare to the state plan
- Public safety stakeholders and elected officials need to participate in the requirements gathering and provide input to the Governor
- This impacts how public safety will communicate in the next 20+ years

What issues must be addressed for a successful alternative plan?
- Statewide governance
- Sustainable business plan from a capital and operational perspective
- Demonstrated technical interoperability with FirstNet

Things to consider
- The network will also be used by organizations and entities supporting first responders like transportation, public works, schools, etc.
- Infrastructure used as part of an alternative plan could provide significant broadband capabilities for other sectors including education, healthcare and economic development

Visit www.FirstNetColorado.org for more information.