What is FirstNet?
The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. Authorized by Congress in 2012, its mission is to develop, build and operate the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN) that equips first responders with dedicated communications to save lives and protect property.

How you can benefit from FirstNet?
Having a dedicated wireless network enables you to avoid network congestion that can and does occur with current wireless networks. It’s not by chance that congestion happens exactly when you need the network most, during significant planned or unplanned events. Knowing you have a dedicated, reliable network allows you to perform tasks and access applications you may have thought not possible in a mobile environment:
- Monitor personnel health and vital signs
- Access to building drawings
- Mapping and travel directions
- Real-time audio/video feeds
- Asset and personnel tracking
- Indoor building location (future)
- Mobile computer aided dispatch
- Remote location access
- Internet access

Adding coverage, priority and preemption... will truly enhance the safety of the public and first responders during every day and large scale events."

Michael J. Risvold
Chief of Police
Wayzata Police Department

Why you should care about FirstNet?
FirstNet was envisioned and championed by first responders for first responders. It provides public safety the robust wireless network they require and deserve. You can expect:
- Priority and preemption
- Availability and reliability
- Affordability
- Public safety grade
- Interoperability
- Non-mission critical push-to-talk
- Quality of service
- Local control
FirstNet in-depth

Organization
- Governed by a fifteen member board, and advised by a 43 member Public Safety Advisory committee made up of public safety experts from across the country.
- A public-private partnership with AT&T to build and deploy the network.

Finances
- The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 allocated $7 billion from the spectrum auctions, and 20MHZ of Band Class 14 spectrum to get the project started.
- The Act states that FirstNet must be financially self-sustaining. FirstNet will leverage the assets granted, and develop a user fee schedule similar to a current commercial carrier.
- FirstNet will offer an additional competitive option for cellular service. They will be competitive, and offer differentiating features from commercial carriers.

What next?
With the recent awarding of the FirstNet contract, initial deployment of the 5-phased implementation is tentatively scheduled for the Winter of 2017-2018. What can you do to prepare:
- Reach out to your regional coordinator
- Determine at what phase of the FirstNet deployment meets your wireless needs
- Understand the pros and any cons
- Understand and plan for migration
- Educate others

MN FirstNet Consultation Project
MnFCP is a statewide effort ensuring the successful implementation of the NPSBN for all Minnesota public safety entities.

MnFCP Stats
- Agencies Providing Survey Feedback - 910
- Coverage Review Attendees - 380
- Regional Build Out Attendees - 309
- County Coverage Reviews - 87/87

Contact Us!

Melinda Miller, MN DPS-ECN State Program Manager Melinda.Miller@state.mn.us (651-201-7554)

Jackie Mines, MN DPS-ECN Director Jackie.mines@state.mn.us (651) 201-7550

Marcus Bruning, Northern RIC marcus.bruning@state.mn.us (218) 232-3762

https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ecn