S.F. First Responders Cite Benefits of 911 Vertical Positioning

(Courtesy TR Daily) – The San Francisco Fire Department, the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 789, and the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management have reported to the FCC the results of tests they conducted with a smartphone equipped with beacon location technology that was developed by NextNav LLC. They say the tests validate the benefits of first responders having 911 vertical location information. The tests at two high-rise buildings in San Francisco showed that the response times for one team without vertical location information were 7 minutes, 6 seconds and 19 minutes, 11 seconds, while the response times for the team with vertical information were 3 minutes, 26 seconds and 2 minutes, 18 seconds. "As the Commission has acknowledged, these time differences can have real impacts on the effectiveness of emergency response, and on the health outcomes for victims," said an ex parte filing in WT docket 07-114. "Even this limited test provides a clear demonstration in support of the Commission's conclusion that dispatching first responders with vertical location information can significantly improve public safety, particularly in dense urban areas."