



# NPSTC

## What Is NPSTC?

NPSTC, the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, is a volunteer federation of public safety member organizations, whose mission it is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.

NPSTC's members represent fire, EMS, law enforcement, transportation, and other public safety telecommunications organizations. NPSTC combines the many voices of its member organizations to enhance the power of public safety's voice.

Since 1997, NPSTC has identified important technical and policy issues critical to public safety telecommunications communities, provided a forum for public safety organizations to discuss and research emerging issues, and initiated critical actions in response when needed. NPSTC's leadership brings national attention to public safety telecommunications issues.



NPSTC monitors and studies public policy and submits comments to governmental organizations on behalf of public safety. NPSTC works to make sure public safety has the spectrum needed to communicate in life-

threatening situations without interference. NPSTC explores technology, public safety needs, and interoperable communications solutions. NPSTC includes people who really know public safety communications. The member organizations bring a wide diversity of issues to the table, where they are thoroughly vetted.

NPSTC's work occurs in the Working Groups of its three Committees, Technology and Broadband, Spectrum Management, and Interoperability.

As FirstNet and the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) turn the dream of a public safety network into reality, since 2009 NPSTC's [Technology and Broadband Committee](#) has published recommendations on the many questions that needed to be answered to build a NPSBN. NPSTC published the following reports in 2018.

### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International
- Amateur Radio Relay League
- Forestry Conservation Communications Association
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- International Association of Emergency Managers
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Municipal Signal Association
- National Association of State Chief Information Officers
- National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
- National Association of State Foresters
- National Association of State Telecommunications Directors
- National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators
- National Emergency Number Association
- National Sheriffs' Association

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group
- Utilities Telecom Council

### AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

- Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions
- Open Mobile Alliance
- Project 25 Technology Interest Group
- Telecommunications Industry Association
- TETRA Critical Communications Association

[\*\*Public Safety Land Mobile Radio \(LMR\) Interoperability with LTE Mission Critical Push to Talk\*\*](#) (January 2018) articulates the issues and requirements regarding integration and interoperability between LMR and LTE MCPTT services. Public safety agencies will likely be using a mix of LMR and LTE networks and will need to have effective interoperability solutions. The report was created following the earlier fall publication of [\*\*Mission Critical Push to Talk Considerations for the Management of User ID and First Responder Identity\*\*](#) (November 2018), provides high-level recommendations on the potential use of various MCPTT data fields to create a standardized approach to managing first responder identity.

The UAS and Robotics Working Group published two reports under the Technology and Broadband Committee: [\*\*Using UAS for Communications Support\*\*](#) and [\*\*UAS Communications Spectrum and Technology Considerations\*\*](#) (May 2018).

Under the [\*\*Interoperability Committee\*\*](#), the [\*\*Common Channel Naming Working Group\*\*](#) recommended a common naming strategy for nationwide LTE interoperability talkgroups, resulting in [\*\*MCPTT Considerations for Interoperability Talkgroup Naming and Management Report\*\*](#) (December 2018).

Also falling under Interoperability, the [\*\*EMS Working Group\*\*](#) issued a report on [\*\*Prehospital Notification Time-Sensitive Medical Emergencies Report\*\*](#) (September 2018). Developed under [\*\*Cross Border Working Group\*\*](#) and in conjunction with the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group, the [\*\*NPSTC Cross Border 911 Data Sharing Report\*\*](#) (September 2018) was published as well as the complete overall combined report from the Radio Interoperability Best Practices Working Group, [\*\*NPSTC Radio Interoperability Best Practices Overall Combined Report\*\*](#) (June 2018).

Through its [\*\*Spectrum Management Committee\*\*](#), NPSTC filed 13 sets of Comments, Reply Comments, and Ex Partes with the FCC and the FirstNet PSAC on issues related to protection of public safety spectrum, including positions on the 6 GHz band, 4.9 GHz, Kari's Law, Metrom Rail Waiver Request, Z-Axis accuracy, the Spectrum Pipeline, 5 GHz rules, the Noise Floor related to the Globalstar Petition, TAC Spectrum Policy, New Technologies, and a medical waiver request. NPSTC continues to monitor issues related to the T-Band through the T-Band Coalition.

**Special Events: NPSTC hosted on a Virtual "Town Hall" discussing the changing use of social media by during disasters.** While many agencies use Facebook and Twitter to notify the public of important information, other agencies are beginning to leverage "crowd source" intelligence from social media platforms by analyzing large amounts of information being posted to social media by the public. Public safety representatives discussed Hurricane Irma, the Pulse Nightclub shooting, Hurricane Harvey, and the California wildland fires.



Recently NPSTC hosted a Town Hall on datacasting, which can deliver large amounts of streaming data like video to a large number of people without overloading the local cellular network. The discussion focused on how California is testing an advanced earthquake early warning detection system; how Adams County, Indiana, is enhancing school safety; and how Houston leveraged video and data transfer during the Super Bowl and Hurricane Harvey.

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**NPSTC's ongoing dialogue on national public safety telecommunication issues affects policies and technologies that local organizations face every day. NPSTC actively seeks your participation as a person interested in public safety telecommunications. [\*\*If you would like to participate\*\*](#) in our Committees or Working Groups or receive email updates on meetings and other relevant public safety communications issues, please visit [\*\*www.npstc.org\*\*](http://www.npstc.org).**