



*National Public Safety Telecommunications Council*

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**Press Release**  
February 9, 2010

**APCO AND NPSTC SEEK COMMENTS ON ADDITION TO DRAFT CHANNEL NAMING STANDARD**

The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) released for comments an addition to a candidate American National Standard (ANS) to ensure national consistency of interoperability on related radio channels. The proposed Standard Channel Nomenclature for Public Safety Interoperability Channels provides a standardized naming format for each Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated Interoperability Channel in Public Safety Radio Services. The comment period is for the proposed addition of the channel use designator SAR for search and rescue.

"The public safety community uses spectrum allocated by the FCC in multiple bands that is replete with interoperability channels," APCO International Executive Director George Rice said. "It is necessary to develop and employ a common set of channel names so that all responders to an incident know which channel to tune their radios to, as well as the band and primary use for the channel."

NPSTC Chair Ralph A. Haller said that he was pleased to see such a positive step forward in interoperability saying, "Common interoperability channel names will help to assure that any organization responding to an emergency will be able to establish contact immediately when arriving on scene. Although the specific channel names were initially controversial, the proposed standard represents the collective efforts of public safety agencies across the country to reach consensus. NPSTC is pleased to have been instrumental in this process." The issue of common channel naming has been on the forefront since the mid-1980s and was again highlighted during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 and Hurricane Katrina.

In 2006, NPSTC reviewed and updated the Standard Channel Nomenclature recommended in the 700 MHz National Coordination Committee's Final Report. This new protocol has been widely adopted across the country in the intervening period, and requests to the federal government resulted in finalizing standard names for similar channels in federal agency spectrum earlier this year.

APCO International is the recognized American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-accredited Standards Developer for public safety communications standards and was selected to facilitate the most recent version of the Standard Channel Nomenclature document through the ANSI standardization process, moving one step closer to completion of National Emergency Communications Plan milestone 3.1.33.

This additional review and comment period is only for the proposed addition and ends on March 7. It can be downloaded at <http://apcointl.org/new/commcenter911/ansi-activity.php>. To submit comments or questions prior to the deadline, e-mail [standards@apco911.org](mailto:standards@apco911.org).

NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.

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American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials | American Radio Relay League | Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies | Association of Public Safety Communications Officials | Forestry Conservation Communications Association | International Association of Chiefs of Police | International Associate 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 Technology Directors | National Sheriffs' Association | National Emergency Number Association

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