



## ***National Public Safety Telecommunications Council***

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Press Release

June 11, 2009

### NPSTC Celebrates Long-awaited Arrival of 700 MHz Spectrum for Public Safety

The organizations of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) celebrated a red-letter day today as the 13-year quest for more spectrum for public safety successfully concluded. "June 12, 2009, is the magic date when all full-service television stations will shut off all analog transmission and transmit only in digital format, vacating that portion of 700 MHz spectrum for public safety's use," said Ralph Haller, NPSTC's Chair, at NPSTC's Governing Board meeting held in Arlington, Virginia.

Today's transition is a direct result of many public safety organizations speaking with a powerful and common voice to accomplish the goal. The digital television transition will double the spectrum allocated and cleared for public safety wide-area mobile communications throughout the U.S. The result will be improved communications that provide additional safety and security for public safety personnel and the public they serve.

The newly available spectrum will support new 700 MHz interoperable narrowband systems and provide additional capacity for existing 800 MHz systems. While approximately 45 narrowband systems have already been deployed over the last few years in selected areas where TV incumbency is not an issue, the end of the DTV transition on June 12, 2009, now makes the spectrum available throughout the country.

As public safety entities deploy either narrowband or broadband systems at 700 MHz, they should be aware that the DTV transition does not apply to low power TV (LPTV) stations, TV translators, or to users of wireless microphones in the 700 MHz band. Public safety agencies will need to notify LPTV and TV translator licensees of any 700 MHz operations they plan to deploy and advise these licensees of the need to move to an alternative channel.

**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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