# What Is NPSTC?

NPSTC, the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, is a volunteer federation of public safety member organizations whose mission 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 has published the following recent reports:

**Interoperability Committee**
- **Emerging EMS Technology: Use Case Analysis of Broadband Capabilities to Support Operations and Patient Care** examines the emerging role of advanced technology and its impact on EMS

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
- American Radio Relay League
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International
- 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 Technology Directors
- National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators
- National Emergency Number Association
- National Sheriffs' Association

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
- Utilities Technology Council

## AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS
- Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions
- Government Wireless Technology and Communications Association
- Open Mobile Alliance
- Project 25 Technology Interest Group
- TCCA The Critical Communications Association

- The EMS Working Group also published the **Prehospital Notification Time-Sensitive Medical Emergencies Report**
- **MCPTT Considerations for Interoperability Talkgroup Naming and Management Report** was developed by the Common Channel Naming Working Group for a common naming strategy for nationwide LTE interoperability talkgroups
- The **Cross Border Working Group**, in conjunction with the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group, published the **NPSTC Cross Border 911 Data Sharing Report**
- **NPSTC Radio Interoperability Best Practices Overall Combined Report** outlines a set of radio interoperability best practice statements using a standard template

**Technology and Broadband Committee**
- **Considerations for Mission Critical Push to Talk (MCPTT) Consoles** overviews selected technical and operational issues associated with the implementation of MCPTT on FirstNet
- **Public Safety Internet of Things Outreach Report to Public Safety** provides guidance to public safety and IT agency leaders and technical staff who are considering adopting PSIoT technology.
- **Public Safety Internet of Things Use Case Report and Assessment Attributes** contains the full use cases, assessment attributes, and discussion notes developed by the Public Safety IoT Working Group over two years
- **Mission Critical Push to Talk Considerations for the Management of User ID and First Responder Identity** 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 including **Using UAS for Communications Support** and **UAS Communications Spectrum and Technology Considerations**

Through its **Spectrum Management Committee,** NPSTC files Comments, Reply Comments, and Ex Partes with the FCC and the FirstNet Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) on issues related to protection of public safety spectrum, including positions on the 6 GHz band, 4.9 GHz, Kari's Law, Z-Axis accuracy and 9-1-1 location, 9-1-1 fee diversion, 5 GHz rules, the noise floor, Part 90 rules, TV whitespace rules, new technologies, and many others. NPSTC was instrumental in Congress overturning the T-Band auction mandate in 2020.

NPSTC hosted two recent virtual town halls, with the first discussing the changing use of social media 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. The second town hall covered 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.

*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.*