



## Media Mentions

August 10, 2023, thru September 11, 2023

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### National

#### [Most Maui Cell Sites Still Out While Carriers Work to Restore Service](#)

08.13.2023 | (Inside Towers)

As part of public safety's FirstNet fleet, AT&T has deployable network assets year-round in Hawaii. A portable FirstNet cell site is providing first responders in Lahaina with dedicated connectivity on Band 14, according to President of FirstNet® at AT&T Jim Bugel. "FirstNet and AT&T team members are onsite and coordinating with local, state and federal agencies to deploy additional network equipment," he says in a blog.

#### [Carriers deploy network support, recovery amid Hawaiian wildfires](#)

08.11.2023 | (RCR Wireless News)

AT&T said Friday that its Network Disaster Recovery Team and FirstNet Response Operations Group has put up a Band 14 portable cell site in Lahaina and that it has AT&T employees on the ground, with more people, network equipment and FirstNet-capable devices on the way.

#### [Caliber Public Safety and AT&T Pledge Continued Collaboration for a Faster, Smarter, Safer Future at the 2023 International APCO Conference](#)

08.14.2023 | (news.websitegear.com)

Join us at the upcoming 2023 International APCO Conference from August 6-9, 2023, at the Music City Center in Nashville, TN. Mike Guerra, Director - NextGen 9-1-1 Products, AT&T said, "Our ongoing work with Caliber Public Safety focuses on the critical interface between NextGen 9-1-1 dispatchers and first responders on FirstNet, delivered via cloud-centric solutions and applications for CAD and RMS/JMS used by both parties, for faster response with better situational awareness that improve decision making during any managed emergency incident."

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### Regional

#### [Updated: Maui residents, businesses come to aid of communities suffering amid wildfire tragedies](#)

08.11.2023 | (Big Island Now)

AT&T's Network Disaster Recovery team and FirstNet Response Operations Group have also worked with Maui public safety officials to deploy a portable cell site to provide Band 14 connectivity dedicated to public safety and service for residents, as network capacity allows.

### [Aloha State: Operators Rush to Help Customers Hit by Maui Wildfires](#)

08.11.2023 | (CableFAX Daily)

AT&T's Network Disaster Recovery team and FirstNet Response Operations Group have deployed a portable cell site to Lahaina. As of Thursday night, the Satellite Cell on Light Truck was providing connectivity to first responders as well as wireless service for customers, as network capacity allowed. It is also preparing additional network assets to support public safety.

### [Jonathan Paige Explains the Role of Technology in Fire and Rescue Training](#)

08.11.2023 | (OCNJ Daily)

Post 9/11, it became clear that public safety might need a more advanced and exclusive network should a large disaster cause a public mobile network to temporarily go down. First Responder Network Authority partnered with AT&T to create just that. Called FirstNet, the network prioritizes first responder communications when commercial networks are overloaded.

### [Keeping kids and teachers safe](#)

08.11.2023 | (WSAZ-TV)

AT&T and FirstNet introduced a new tool called 'safety shield' to keep students and teachers safer and better-connected during the school day.

## **National**

### [FCC: 95% of cell sites out in areas affected by Maui's wildfires](#)

08.14.2023 | (RCR Wireless News)

AT&T has said that it has a site up to cover Lahaina—the equipment was housed on Maui and so it went up quickly to provide FirstNet Band 14 service in Lahaina, the epicenter of the worst damage.

### [Carriers Continue Restoration Efforts in Maui](#)

08.15.2023 | (Inside Towers)

Wireless companies have deployed mobile assets to Maui to support wireless services while fixed cell sites are being restored. AT&T personnel have been on the ground with Compact Rapid Deployables that can provide coverage up to half a mile without relying on commercial power availability. Inside Towers reported the carrier has a dedicated FirstNet cell on wheels from neighboring islands and a flying cell on wings.

## **National**

### [The Cruise glitch will dominate MWC Vegas. Here's why.](#)

08.16.2023 | (Light Reading)

To be clear, wireless providers have been working to address this situation. For example, some customers can be "deprioritized" if they're on a cheaper service plan. And services like Verizon's Frontline and AT&T's FirstNet promise to "prioritize" the network traffic of first responders in situations where networks are overloaded.

### [Verizon, AT&T restore cell service to Upcountry Maui](#)

08.15.2023 | (Light Reading)

Verizon Frontline and AT&T FirstNet emergency response services are working toward restoring mobile service in Maui, a Hawaiian island recently devastated by wildfires...A SatCOLT was also deployed in the

Ka'anapali area, and FirstNet Mini CRDs (compact rapid deployables) are providing wireless coverage and Wi-Fi for a public safety agency at a Ka'anapali hotel in Black Rock Beach.

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## National

### [FCC to Support Hawaii Wildfire Recovery](#)

08.18.2023 | (TV Technology)

The FCC outlined a number of steps it is taking to help communities impacted by the Maui wildfires including Engaging with FirstNet to assist with movement and placement of assets to support public safety officials' field engagements.

### [AT&T's FirstNet, Verizon Frontline connect first responders in Maui](#)

08.17.2023 | (FierceWireless)

Network restoration crews are accustomed to responding to emergencies caused by hurricanes, but the wildfires that devastated Maui are a different animal. "We're working around the clock. We have dozens of people on the ground and we've deployed dozens of assets," said Scott Agnew, head of FirstNet operations at AT&T.

### [Telecom Carriers' Quick Response To The Tragic Maui Wildfires](#)

08.16.2023 | (Forbes)

The tragedy of this month's wildfires on the island of Maui will be remembered for generations to come. AT&T's efforts on the island of Maui are extremely important because the carrier's network enables the FirstNet network. As the scope of the fire emergency became clear, AT&T dispatched its Response Operations Group (ROG) to support FirstNet subscribers.

### [Tough new tablet withstands the rigors of the field](#)

08.17.2023 | (EMS1.com)

The Mesa Pro rugged tablet from Juniper Systems comes from a history of "pretty darn tough." It's Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and 4G LTE multicarrier-capable and can come with optional FirstNet Band 14 mobile broadband to ensure connection and priority in times of congestion.

### [China-US Tech War Spirals Over Smart Devices](#)

08.18.2023 | (Newsweek)

China has responded to calls by a U.S. Congress committee for scrutiny of Chinese-made internet modules that are embedded in devices that range from vital U.S. first responder systems to smart refrigerators. China Daily noted that Ryan Oremland, Communications Director of FirstNet Authority, which is responsible for the first responder devices, had told Newsweek that robust testing ensured high security.

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## Regional

### [Chico firm deploying life-saving technology](#)

08.21.2023 | (Chico Enterprise Record)

Rescue 42 has a division dedicated to portable telecommunications units that serve as cellular towers when phone and web service go down in an emergency. AT&T contracts with Rescue 42 to supply

CRDs (Compact Rapid Deployable telecommunications unit) compatible with FirstNet cellular service, which prioritizes communications for public safety, health and infrastructure personnel.

### [Column: FirstNet is a critical tool for public safety](#)

08.21.2023 | (Alabama Daily News)

In his recent testimony before Congress, Ed Davis, former Commissioner of the Boston Police Department, shared his experience with the Boston Marathon bombing and how it influenced his passion for improving the resources available to public safety organizations. In response, Commissioner Davis has been a strong advocate for FirstNet – the nation’s first communications network dedicated to public safety.

### [Emergency network coverage expanded in American Fork Canyon](#)

08.16.2023 | (Daily Herald - Utah Valley)

Connection to American Fork Canyon for emergency calls and AT&T users has been expanded and was commemorated last Friday with a roundtable discussion at Tibble Fork Reservoir. FirstNet covers 99% of the U.S. population but AT&T is expanding the coverage to be higher quality and to reach rural areas such as American Fork Canyon where emergency responders cannot communicate and respond quickly.

### [7News @ 5pm](#)

08.16.2023 | (WTRF (CBS))

AT&T has unveiled its FirstNet emergency network especially for schools. It's an alert system made up of panic buttons worn by teachers, bus drivers and administrators, with an automatic and direct line to police. No middleman required.

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## National

### [FCC Helping Maui Restore Communications and Emergency Response](#)

08.21.2023 | (Inside Towers)

The FCC has been busy supporting communications restoration in Maui, HI. FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel previously worked on the staff of U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI). The agency is aiding carriers with transportation logistics and state processes to expedite communications restoration activities and engaging with FirstNet to assist with movement and placement of assets to support public safety officials’ field engagements.

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## Regional

### [Spin Control: Wild conspiracies about election fraud are hard to kill](#)

08.19.2023 | (The Spokesman-Review)

Some “revelations” about supposed election conspiracies are like the serial killer in a slasher movie: No matter what the teens do, the killer never dies. The report postulates that “an incestuous collaboration between the Department of Homeland Security, the Election Assistance Commission, leftist/globalist funding, foreign companies, and their private partners” used FirstNet to reach down into precinct polling stations and county data centers to change votes.

### [First Responders shown appreciation at annual luncheon](#)

08.21.2023 | (Lincoln Times-News)

The Lincoln-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce acknowledged the important work of the emergency services community by hosting its second annual First Responders Luncheon. Kathleen Evans, AT&T regional director, discussed her company's partnership with Congress in the creation of FirstNet, a national broadband public safety network for law enforcement, firefighters, and EMS.

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## National

### [FirstNet Authority board approves FY24 budget for operations, network investments](#)

08.23.2023 | (Police1)

The First Responder Network Authority Board today approved a \$451 million budget package to fund operations in Fiscal Year 2024 and to explore opportunities for network enhancements. Meeting today in Tacoma, Washington, the FirstNet Authority Board unanimously approved Resolution 115, which allocates \$95 million for the FirstNet Authority's operating budget in FY24, plus an additional \$95 million for reserves.

### [FirstNet Authority Focuses on Reauthorization; Board Approves Budget](#)

08.23.2023 | (Communications Daily)

Reauthorization of the FirstNet Authority is a top priority in FY 2024, CEO Joe Wassel said at the authority board's quarterly meeting Wednesday. The authority will sunset in 2027 without congressional action, Wassel said.

### [FirstNet Board Approves \\$451 Million Budget for FY 2024](#)

08.22.2023 | (TR Daily - Powered by Dow Jones)

The First Responder Network Authority board today approved a nearly \$451 million budget for fiscal year 2024 that includes almost \$261 million for reinvestments in network coverage and emerging technologies. The budget, which was approved during a meeting in Tacoma, Washington, also includes nearly \$95 million for the authority's operations and an equal amount for an operational contingency reserve.

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## Regional

### [Proposed cell tower doesn't meet city code](#)

08.23.2023 | (Yukon Progress)

Dozens of residents filled the Yukon City Council chambers this week to demonstrate opposition to a proposed cell tower on Yukon's east side. None of them even had to speak before Mayor Shelli Selby closed an Aug. 15th public hearing to appeal the Yukon Planning Commission's July 10th denial of the proposed tower at 872 S Yukon Parkway. He described the proposed 911-capable, AT&T FirstNet-dedicated tower on Yukon Parkway as "very short."

## National

### [FirstNet Authority Board OKs \\$451M Budget Package for FY24; Joe Wassel Quoted](#)

08.24.2023 | (ExecutiveGov)

The First Responder Network Authority Board has cleared a budget package of \$451 million to fund operations and pursue network improvements in fiscal year 2024. “Our top priorities for the coming year include the development of a 10-year investment plan to advance 5G and coverage on the network, as well as strengthening our programs for public safety education, training, awareness, and oversight of the network contract,” said Joe Wassel, executive director and CEO of the FirstNet Authority.

### [FirstNet Board Approves \\$451 Million Budget for FY 2024](#)

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### [Rules, Deadlines Waived For Hawaii Wildfire Areas](#)

08.24.2023 | (Telecommunications Reports - Powered by Dow Jones)

The FCC’s Wireline Competition Bureau has waived certain rules and deadlines in the areas affected by the wildfires in Hawaii. In a press release, the FCC detailed its efforts, including “[e]ngaging with FirstNet to assist with movement and placement of assets to support public safety officials’ field engagements.”

### [Learning from stress and trauma to be better first responders](#)

08.24.2023 | (FireRescue1)

Being a first responder ranks as one of the most stressful – and rewarding – professions an individual can undertake. FirstNet, built with AT&T is helping to nurture post-traumatic growth and support the health and wellness of first responders through the FirstNet Health and Wellness Coalition (FNHWC), established in 2020.

## Regional

### ['Safety Shield' aims to speed up police response during active shooter situations at schools](#)

08.25.2023 | (KFSN-TV - ABC30)

A new device is hoping to help first responders get to a school site sooner if there's an active shooter. The 'Safety Shield' can hang around teacher's and administrator's necks and gives them a panic button to press in the case of an emergency. The device uses AT&T and FirstNet, which allows it to work off-campus and stays charged for a semester.

### [Planners hear about Climate Action Plan, oppose cell tower](#)

08.24.2023 | (The Valley Roadrunner)

Valley Center planners at their Monday August 8 meeting voted against a monopole cell tower. The proponent, retired fire chief Barry Hutchings, said that such a tower would help first responders by making it easier for them to communicate during emergencies. The tower would be part of the FirstNet First Responder Network.

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## National

### [FirstNet Authority board approves \\$450.8 million budget for 2024 fiscal year, CEO shares priorities - Urgent Comms](#)

08.25.2023 | (Urgent Comms)

FirstNet Authority board members voted unanimously to approve a \$450.8 million budget for the upcoming 2024 fiscal year. FirstNet Authority CEO Joe Wassel outlined the organization's priorities for the upcoming fiscal year, citing system resilience and enhancements to the connected-first-responder vision as key technical areas of focus.

### [FirstNet Board Approves FY24 Budget for Operations, Network Investments](#)

08.28.2023 | (Inside Towers)

The First Responder Network Authority Board approved a \$451 million budget package to fund operations in Fiscal Year 2024 and to explore opportunities for network enhancements. "This demonstrates the FirstNet Authority's commitment to advance FirstNet beyond the initial buildout phase," said FirstNet Authority Board Chair Richard Carrizzo.

### [Is the IoT module debate about security, competition or xenophobia?](#)

08.28.2023 | (Light Reading)

Fears over Chinese espionage are now shifting into the market for cellular Internet of Things (IoT) modules. But the companies selling such gadgets – including AT&T and FirstNet – argued that they thoroughly vet such devices. AT&T's Scott Agnew told Newsweek that the company conducts thousands of tests "including examining firmware and data transports."

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## Regional

### [Valley Center Planning Committee Finds Reasons to Chop Down Monopine](#)

08.29.2023 | (Inside Towers)

Valley Center's Community Planning Committee has issued a 12-2 vote against a proposed 75-foot cell tower. The tower project was championed by retired Fire Chief, Barry Hutchings, who argued that an additional cell tower would be an asset to public safety.

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## National

### [FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration's Latest Actions to Support Communities Impacted by Maui Wildfires | The White House](#)

08.30.2023 | (The White House)

Since the onset of the unprecedented wildfires on Maui, Hawai'i, President Biden launched a whole-of-government effort to support survivors and affected communities. FirstNet used its resilient deployable assets such as Cell on Light Trucks (COLTS) and other deployable assets to restore or enhance cellular coverage for 10 locations on Maui.

### [Train Wi-Fi Can Be Terrible. Operators Are Looking High and Low for Solutions. -- WSJ](#)

08.30.2023 | (Dow Jones Institutional News - Powered by Dow Jones)

Internet access on trains can be notoriously bad. But train operators say hope could be around the bend. AT&T's Eborall said the company has been working with the government since 2017 on a project called FirstNet so that it can provide coverage to emergency services in remote areas. Trains will also benefit from this, he said.

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## Regional

### [Aug. 29 - As Hurricane Idalia Approaches, AT&T Prepares Network, Offers Tips to Help You Stay Connected](#)

08.29.2023 | (The Savannah Business Journal)

AT&T has initiated its storm preparedness plan as Hurricane Idalia tracks toward Georgia. Network preparations include staging dedicated FirstNet® deployable communications solutions for use by public safety agencies on FirstNet to request as needed.

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## National

### [Massive Power Outages in Wake of Hurricane Idalia](#)

08.31.2023 | (Inside Towers)

Winds from Hurricane Idalia whipped up to 90 miles per hour Wednesday, dumping rain and seawater into flooded communities. As Hurricane Idalia continued inland, it left behind commercial power outages, extensive flooding and significant structural damage throughout the area. Carriers had staged emergency response and network recovery equipment in strategic locations for quick deployment following the storm. That included staging dedicated FirstNet equipment for use by public safety agencies.

### [President Biden announces \\$95M to harden Hawai'i's power grid](#)

08.30.2023 | (Maui Now)

President Biden is today announced the Department of Energy is providing \$95 million through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to harden Hawai'i's electric grid. The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, through FirstNet is providing wireless high-speed Internet connectivity and voice communications for first responders and emergency management.

### [There will be more hurricanes, some tips going forward](#)

08.30.2023 | (Wireless Wednesday Live)

Hurricane Idalia is tracking across the South. It's done damage and the cleanup will last weeks if not months. AT&T is doing what it can to keep its customers connected. Their network preparations include: Staging dedicated FirstNet® deployable communications solutions for use by public safety agencies on FirstNet to request as needed.

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## Regional

### [The San Pasqual Tribe and AT&T Expand Fiber Network](#)

08.31.2023 | (Telecom Ramblings)

The San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians announced an agreement to expand AT&T's fiber network throughout San Pasqual Band Tribal land. From 2020-2022, AT&T invested more than \$8.6 billion in its wireless and wireline networks in California to expand coverage and improve critical communications services for California's first responders using the FirstNet network.

### [Repairs of fiber cable cut begin; Tribal government declares emergency in light of ongoing internet outages](#)

08.30.2023 | (The Arctic Sounder - Powered by Dow Jones)

North Slope's tribal organization asked for federal help with the response to the internet and cell outages that hurt several Arctic communities this summer after the fiber cable was damaged. They also bought 48 FirstNet phones for on-call and emergency response providers.

### [NDIT Team to Enhance the State's Public Safety Radio Network](#)

08.30.2023 | (Government Technology)

North Dakota Information Technology (NDIT) announced the establishment of a new public safety team dedicated to enhancing the SORN network to ensure seamless implementation for first responders across the state. The team will also be charged with integrating state systems and technology with FirstNet, the national public safety communications network.

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## National

### [Commerce discloses more AI use cases in updated inventory](#)

09.1.2023 | (FedScoop)

The Department of Commerce has updated its inventory of AI use cases. One new use case involves a natural language processing-powered data analytics program attributed to the First Responder Network Authority, an independent agency within Commerce and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration that focuses on public safety communications tech.

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## Regional

### [Lampe leaves as Warren County dispatch director](#)

09.4.2023 | (Indianola Independent Advocate (IA))

Warren County is on its third dispatch supervisor after director Tom Lampe left the county in July. Lampe said then he was leaving the county for his "dream job." Lampe is now the senior public safety advisor for FirstNet, a \$7 billion nationwide wireless broadband network for first responders being implemented for the federal government by AT&T.

### [Berlin Council Approves Town-Owned Cellphones For Officials](#)

08.31.2023 | (Maryland Coast Dispatch)

The Berlin Town Council agreed to move forward with purchasing town-owned cellphones for employees and elected officials. At the recommendation of Mayor Zack Tyndall, the council voted

unanimously on Monday to purchase AT&T FirstNet devices for most staff and elected officials. He said the recommendation came in the wake of an increasing number of Freedom of Information Act requests.

### [President Biden announces \\$95M to harden Hawai'i's power grid](#)

08.30.2023 | (Maui Now)

Since the start of the unprecedented wildfires in Maui, Hawaii, President Biden has led a whole-of-government effort to assist survivors and affected communities. The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, through FirstNet is providing wireless high-speed Internet connectivity and voice communications for first responders and emergency management.

## National

### [First on CNBC: CNBC Transcript: AT&T CEO John Stankey Speaks with CNBC's David Faber on "Squawk on the Street" Today](#)

09.6.2023 | (CNBC)

In a recent CNBC interview, AT&T CEO John Stankey noted, "We are getting very good yields off the customers that we're bringing in, over 8 million postpaid subscribers in that three-year period. We've done it by tuning the right distribution channel to where we can get the right customers. For example, in FirstNet, where we have the ability to go after public safety where we are under penetrated."

### [AT&T's CEO explains how drones are one part of a 'really good business'](#)

09.6.2023 | (Yahoo! Money)

AT&T is trying to help first responders during natural disasters by using things like drones to provide cell service. AT&T CEO John Stankey says "over six years ago, we started a public-private partnership with the government to create a first responders Network called FirstNet that ensures that any first responder can get data communications whenever they need to in a time of crisis."

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## National

### [Iowa PSAPs Increase Reliability With FirstNet Installs](#)

09.8.2023 | (Government Technology)

Iowa 911 Program Manager Blake DeRouchey says that new connectivity of Iowa PSAPs to a backup FirstNet connection has provided a "great leap in reliability from just a couple of years ago," even on "bad days." "We are proud to say we have 75 PSAPs onboard using FirstNet as their backup, should they lose their primary connection," said Patrick Kazeze, ICN's Facilities and Technical Assistance Center bureau manager.

### [FirstNet, built with AT&T identifies steps to address mental health and wellness in public safety](#)

09.8.2023 | (Police1)

FirstNet, built with AT&T and the FirstNet Health and Wellness Coalition have identified the major barriers to mental health program adoption among first responder agencies and developed 5 key recommendations to improve the health and wellness of public safety in the new white paper, Helping the Helpers: Lessons Learned and Outcomes to Date from the FirstNet Health and Wellness Coalition.

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## Regional

### [FirstNet \(Video\) | West Central Florida](#)

09.8.2023 | ([spotonflorida.com](https://spotonflorida.com))

The Citrus County Sheriff's office posted a video of Sheriff Mike Prendergast thanking FirstNet for fulfilling their request for wireless network support. Sheriff Prendergast said, "Our phones needed a little bit of boost for service and coverage and FirstNet delivered."



**Kevin R. Nida, Fire Battalion Chief (Ret.)**

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