

Indiana County Transforms First Responder Communications with FirstNet®

New Technologies Expand Our Capabilities to Better Serve Indiana County; New Cell Site Improves Connectivity for Area Residents and Visitors

INDIANA COUNTY, Pa., Oct. 14, 2021 — Indiana County is connecting our first responders to [FirstNet](#) – the *only* nationwide, high-speed broadband communications platform dedicated to and purpose-built for America’s first responders and the extended public safety community. With this tech advancement, we can equip our first responders with new capabilities and reliable access to critical information while in the field, allowing us to better serve those who live, work and visit Indiana County.

FirstNet is designed to strengthen the communications capabilities of first responders nationwide, bringing public safety the reliable, unthrottled connectivity and advanced capabilities they need to communicate with one another easily and quickly during everyday situations, big events or emergencies. This is integral to solving the communications challenges public safety has experienced in the past.

Indiana County turned to FirstNet to fill the gaps in connectivity that previously existed in our area, increasing public safety’s ability to get faster access to information. The county uses FirstNet in our mobile command post vehicle and for some department-issued phones.

In addition, FirstNet’s data management capabilities have served as a springboard for innovation for the county, fueling the data connection from Indiana County’s 911 center to its premier public safety radio network.

“Indiana County EMA has been striving to provide access to live data from the county’s 911 center since the inception of our new radio system in 2011,” said **Indiana County Emergency Management Agency Director Thomas A. Stutzman**. “FirstNet provides all county agencies with a platform to solve this issue. Working with each discipline area to access live CAD data, preplans, vehicle locations, mapping, road closures, CLEAN/NCIC data and more will be beneficial to all agencies in the county. This is a work in progress but using FirstNet and the integration they provide has simplified our ability to deliver on this much-needed information.”

Indiana County joined FirstNet to provide our first responders with reliable, modern communications tools needed to perform at our best, including:

- One, nationwide communications platform that allows us to coordinate emergency responses efficiently and effectively across agencies and jurisdictions.
- Always-on priority and, for first responders, preemption, to give us reliable access to the connection we need – even when the network is congested.
- A separate, dedicated and highly secure network core purpose-built for public safety’s sensitive communications.

- Planned increases in coverage and capacity, enabling us to better respond to emergencies in all areas of Indiana County – and across the state.
- Innovative tools – like relevant applications and connected devices – to give us more actionable information for heightened situational awareness.

Building upon [AT&T's current and planned investments](#) in Pennsylvania, a new cell site was recently turned on in Indiana County, giving AT&T customers and FirstNet subscribers in the Montgomery Township area better wireless connectivity. The new site brings improved coverage along State Route 286 and Gipsy Road.

“Having the ability to use FirstNet Wi-Fi for our computers in the patrol vehicles has been a huge benefit for the deputies. Before joining FirstNet, our deputies had to either be sitting at their desk in the office to access information or use their radio to request needed information while in the field,” said **Indiana County Sergeant John R. Compardo**. “Since installing the laptops in the vehicles and gaining the coverage provided by FirstNet, our deputies can do more outside of the office, saving them a significant amount of time. Now when they are at a traffic stop or serving warrants, for instance, they can verify an individual's identity by seeing the photo that the Department of Transportation has on file, check for any additional warrants or officer safety information and check all of the individual's vehicle information directly from their patrol car.”

“We’re honored that Indiana County chose FirstNet to elevate their communications capabilities,” said **David Kerr, president of AT&T Pennsylvania**. “It’s our mission to give first responders the cutting-edge tools they need to safely and effectively achieve their mission. FirstNet will help first responders in Indiana County and across the country perform at the highest levels to keep themselves and those they serve out of harm’s way.”

“FirstNet is the exclusive communications platform being built with AT&T for public safety, inspired by public safety. There is no substitution for this purpose-built network,” said **FirstNet Authority CEO Edward Parkinson**. “We look forward to supporting Indiana County and all of Pennsylvania’s public safety community with FirstNet, making sure it delivers what they need, when they need it.”

Read more about how FirstNet is enhancing communications for Indiana County Emergency Management Agency in [this blog](#). To learn more about Indiana County, visit indianacountypa.gov.

To learn more about FirstNet, go to FirstNet.com. To learn more about subscribing to FirstNet, contact Christian Peck at (412) 628-2657 or christian.peck@att.com. Individual first responders can also subscribe to FirstNet at a local AT&T store.

About FirstNet, Built with AT&T

FirstNet® is the only nationwide, high-speed broadband communications platform dedicated to and purpose-built for America's first responders and the extended public safety community. Shaped by the vision of Congress and the first responder community following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, FirstNet stands above commercial offerings. It is built with [AT&T](#) in public-private partnership with the First Responder Network Authority – an independent agency within the federal government. The FirstNet network is providing public safety with truly dedicated coverage and capacity when they need it, unique benefits like *always-on* priority and, for first responders, preemption, and high-quality Band 14 spectrum. These advanced capabilities help fire, EMS, law enforcement save lives and protect their communities. Learn more at [FirstNet.com](#).

FirstNet and the FirstNet logo are registered trademarks of the First Responder Network Authority. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.

###