



April 19, 2013

FirstNet Board Member Sue Swenson Delivers Remarks to CCA Conference

New Orleans - First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Board member Sue Swenson provided an update Wednesday on FirstNet's work to prepare for a nationwide public safety broadband network. The following remarks are a summary of those delivered at the Competitive Carriers Association Global Expo in New Orleans on April 17.

"We all know and appreciate the heroic acts displayed by the men and women who make up our emergency responder communities. On Monday, after the Boston Marathon, we were reminded of their vital role and how much their effectiveness depends on having reliable wireless communication.

Unfortunately, when you have spectrum fragmentation and *de facto* standards that have not been enforced, you end up with a lack of interoperability between networks. When emergency responders can't talk to each other, you can't optimize emergency response.

Emergency responders have also been walled off from accessing the latest technology. Essentially, the pipe is too small and the pressure is too weak to pump data through. While current public safety LMR systems provide some capability, many emergency personnel resort to using their own smartphones to get the benefit of higher bandwidth and faster speeds." ...

Read the full article at: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/press-release/2013/firstnet-board-member-sue-swenson-delivers-remarks-cca-conference>