



Cal OES
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FirstNet Outreach and Education Ongoing in the North State

Sacramento – Technology is changing with the speed of light and much of this technology has been beneficial to consumers and businesses alike. Likewise, connecting all public safety personnel through [FirstNet](#) would be one of the most important advancements in public safety.

That's why the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Public Safety Communications Department continues to hold town hall meetings across the state to explain what this nationwide, high-speed, wireless broadband network could mean to California and how it could benefit cities, counties and residents alike.

During the 7th meeting in Humboldt County, stakeholders learned California's developments on public safety broadband communications, current initiatives and how their local agencies can be part of the network. Leaders from Nevada and Oregon shared the importance of bordering states to be access to that system and how interoperability would be beneficial during incidents. Town hall participants explained their requirements, priorities and concerns

"We have the opportunity to design this system from the ground up, so we can build something that is going to be reliable, robust and secure," said Karen Wong Assistant Director of Public Safety Communications at Cal OES. "These meetings are a great way for us to meet with the local public safety officials and begin the conversation on the development and deployment plan."

FirstNet is a wireless network that will allow responders to use mobile devices to use data from smartphones, tables, and computers in their vehicles to respond to incidents. It will give public safety personnel the ability to talk to one another through a broadband platform that will be established to be able to push information out simultaneously and equally to all of first responders. The Federal Communications Commission has been authorized to conduct incentive auctions to raise \$7 billion for building and managing the new network.

Cal OES is holding these meetings as the law that established FirstNet requires it to consult with Federal, State, tribal and local public safety entities to ensure that the FirstNet network is designed to meet the needs of public safety across the country. FirstNet began its state and local planning outreach efforts in mid-May 2013 with six regional workshops.

"We are learning how unique the coverage needs are in each county and how different local and regional incident policies and procedures can be at the local level," said Sue Swenson, FirstNet

Board of Directors Chairwoman. “Using the FirstNet network will improve situational awareness, decision - making and responder and citizen health and safety. Just as smartphones have changed personal lives, FirstNet devices and applications will ultimately change the way public safety operates..”

Cal OES has shared FirstNet to Lakeport, Bakersfield, Fairfield, Santa Ana, and Sacramento Counties and will be holding the next meeting in San Bernardino County.

For more information on FirstNet and its implementation in California, please visit CalOES.ca.gov and follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).