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National Emergency
Number Association 

Public Safety Reviewing Wireless 9-1-1 Waiver Requests

9-1-1 Association to form consensus on requests to deviate from FCC rules

COLUMBUS, Ohio (June 23, 2001)—The October 1, 2001 deadline for wireless telephone service providers to comply with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) wireless 9-1-1 rules is fast approaching, and may pass virtually unnoticed. FCC rules state that, within guidelines, wireless carriers must offer Phase II wireless 9-1-1 service, enabling public safety to call back and/or locate citizens who dial 9-1-1 from wireless/cellular phones. This critical technology will allow public safety to respond most quickly.

Wireless carriers are making, or have already made, decisions about how they will comply with the FCC rules. As part of this, carriers review the available location technology, and may consider or even file requests with the FCC for waivers of the current FCC rules. These waivers would approve a carrier's deviation from the FCC 9-1-1 rules, and potentially the October 1 deadline.

The National Emergency Number Association (NENA), together with the Association for Public-safety Communications Officials (APCO) and the National Association of State Nine-one-one Administrators (NASNA), is working to review these filings, requests and decisions, including a forum of 9-1-1 technical leaders at the NENA Annual Conference on June 27. The open forum will present preliminary findings resulting from comments collected from members of each association, and input from interested parties will be solicited.

“It's time for the organizations that represent public safety to collaborate in responding to the slow implementation of wireless 9-1-1,” said Norman H. Forshee, NENA President. “Too many lives have been lost because wireless subscribers cannot be found when they call 9-1-1. It is incumbent on wireless carriers to work with public safety agencies to come together and meet the FCC mandates.”

The Wireless Waiver Review Forum will assist these three associations, which represent public safety, to fairly, consistently and accurately respond to carriers' wireless 9-1-1 deployment plans and waiver requests.

NENA Wireless Waiver Review Forum: Wednesday, June 27, 2001; 1:00-3:15 p.m.; Atlanta Room; Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida. Media are invited to attend this or any portion of the NENA Annual Conference and should visit the NENA Registration Desk for a press badge.

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About NENA:

NENA is the only organization dedicated solely to the promotion and implementation of 9-1-1 as America's universal emergency number. NENA's mission is to foster the development and implementation of 9-1-1 as a universal emergency number. NENA has more than 7,000 members, most of whom manage over 6,000 9-1-1 centers that answer and process emergency calls. As an integral part of its mission, NENA also develops recommended standards and practices for 9-1-1 centers and manufacturers of 9-1-1 equipment. Visit NENA online at www.nena.org.