



NEWSRELEASE

STORY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Paul H. Fitzgerald, Sheriff

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For Immediate Release

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Next Generation 911 Technologies

This week is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW), an occasion to honor and celebrate the lifesaving work of our nation's 100,000 public safety telecommunicators. These professionals protect and save lives every day and have a critical role in emergency response, protecting the public as well as police, fire, and emergency medical officials. In fact, our telecommunicators are regularly involved with CPR instructions over the phone and I have personally awarded a stork pin commendation within the last year to one of our telecommunicators who successfully assisted with delivery of a baby over the phone. 9-1-1 professionals deserve to be recognized for their lifesaving work, and we should ensure they have the support they need, including the most up to date communications technology.

Our 9-1-1 system is the most critical of critical infrastructure, yet these systems are operating with technology that is over 50 years old. Individuals can send photos to each other and video chat, but during emergencies these capabilities can't be used to communicate with 9-1-1.

Next Generation 9-1-1 will enable 9-1-1 centers to receive a variety of multimedia and other data from 9-1-1 callers and seamlessly share this information with other 9-1-1 centers and first responders in the field. This technology will make emergency responses faster and more efficient, first responders and communities safer, and allow public safety

professionals to meet the needs and expectations of the American people in the 21st Century. True NG911 capabilities will allow my telecommunicators to lower dispatch/response times, increase officer and responder safety, and more quickly and accurately assist with medical advice and instruction during emergencies.

Federal funding is needed to ensure Next Generation 9-1-1 is deployed throughout the entire country in an effective, efficient, and secure manner and to enable implementation training nationwide. The investment of federal resources in this critical infrastructure will ensure that all communities in the United States -- be they rural, urban, suburban, or tribal -- will have a secure, resilient, interoperable, and reliable way of receiving, processing, and responding to requests for emergency assistance.

Any questions or inquiries can be directed to Captain Nicholas A. Lennie at nlennie@storycountyiowa.gov or 515-231-8405.