

# Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service Information Bulletin From the Technical Operations Unit

Information Bulletin: 19-01

February 28, 2019

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**TO:** All MCFRS Personnel

**FROM:** Division Chief Dave Steckel  
Support Services Division

**SUBJECT:** FirstNet Information

*DR Steckel*

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) to provide emergency responders with the first high-speed, nationwide network dedicated to public safety. AT&T won the solicitation as the vendor to fulfill the FirstNet mandate. One goal of the program is to make FirstNet devices and cellular service available to personal accounts of first responders. This is called the *Subscriber Paid Program*, which some of you have seen solicitations for around the county.

The FirstNet Authority has begun to deploy the FirstNet network with their provider, AT&T Wireless. This network is intended for first responders and is available at both a County level and at an individual subscriber level. This Information Bulletin provides MCFRS personnel with information about the FirstNet network and the process for MCFRS members to sign up for the service if they choose. This Information Bulletin does not endorse or recommend a specific provider; it is only a description of the registration process for who wish to register for FirstNet Network via MCFRS.

FirstNet allows for network priority and preemption for First Response personnel as a basic service.

- Personnel who register their personal devices/accounts through the MCFRS Technical Service Report ([TSR](#)) process will be placed in an account status that enables elevation (“1<sup>st</sup> in line”) in the network during times of emergency.
- Personnel who register outside of the MCFRS process will still receive the priority and preemption, however will be placed in a national first responder pool and will not be eligible for elevation during times of emergency.

MCFRS Personnel wishing to be pre-authorized for the FirstNet Network, under the MCFRS umbrella should complete a TSR, selecting “FirstNet Subscriber Pay”. All personnel will be verified by Technical Operations through their respective departments as active members. Once confirmed, personnel will receive an email from the MCFRS

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that can be used at a local AT&T store for FirstNet activation. The list of personnel authorized on FirstNet will be reviewed annually with all MCFRS entities for accuracy.

This authorization does not shift payment obligations to the MCFRS, the personal accounts are simply registered as authorized users of the FirstNet network under the MCFRS umbrella.

Attached is a FAQ document from the FirstNet Authority, and a flyer from AT&T that will explain the FirstNet Network to MCFRS Members. Should you have any questions please contact the Technical Operations Battalion Chief.

For further questions or clarification, contact Technical Operations Battalion Chief.

