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National Emergency
Number Association



FCC Decision Supports Association Position on Wireless 9-1-1

FCC Letter to King County, Washington clarifies FCC Rules, will benefit Public Safety

COLUMBUS, Ohio (May 10, 2001)—The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) applauds the Federal Communication Commission’s (FCC) decision clarifying wireless carrier responsibility for Phase I wireless 9-1-1 implementation costs. In its letter of response to the King County, Washington, E9-1-1 Program (May 7, 2001), the FCC addressed questions concerning cost responsibility for wireless carriers and public safety answering points (PSAPs).

“NENA is pleased with the Bureau’s clarification ‘that the proper demarcation point for allocating costs between the wireless carriers and the PSAPs is the input to the 911 Selective Router maintained by the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier’,” said Norm Forshee, NENA President.

Advocating on behalf of public safety, NENA supported the cost demarcation position not only in its written comments to the FCC, but also in numerous visits to the Commission. NENA’s position on the King County issue was derived through polling its U.S. Chapters.

“We believe this decision will best ensure the rapid implementation of wireless 9-1-1 Phase I,” Forshee said. “NENA applauds the FCC for recognizing the importance of this decision for public safety.”

For America’s PSAPs, this decision means that their costs will be more predictable and equitable, as the trunking upgrade cost responsibility will reside with the wireless carriers.

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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.