

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sonya Carius, (800) 332-3911

National Emergency
Number Association



NENA Encouraged by FCC Decision to Deny Waivers Pertaining to Nationwide Enhanced Wireless 9-1-1 Systems

COLUMBUS, Ohio (September 12, 2000)—The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) is encouraged by the tone of the FCC's September 8, 2000 ruling that denied waivers of compliance with the wireless 9-1-1 rules adopted by the Commission. While the same ruling also extended the time for filing wireless carrier technology plans for wireless E911 location, and extended the deadlines for integrating GPS-capable handsets, NENA was encouraged that in this ruling, the Commission otherwise denied some select individual waiver requests.

"We applaud the Commission's requirement that a wireless carrier show a substantial effort and valid reason before a waiver is granted," commented Norman H. Forshee, NENA president.

Throughout the implementation process, NENA has consistently opposed the extension of compliance periods for wireless carriers due to the fact that automatic location technology is a critical component of providing emergency help for cellular 9-1-1 callers. NENA believes the FCC decision published this week underscores the Commission's requirement of a "good faith" effort to comply with the rules.

"In that respect, the FCC decision is a sound ruling and in the interest of public safety," Forshee concluded.

###

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 the 4,300 primary 9-1-1 centers that answer and process 9-1-1 calls. As a part of its mission, NENA also develops recommended operating standards and protocol for 9-1-1 services. NENA's international headquarters is located in Columbus, Ohio.