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National Emergency  
Number Association 

## **9-1-1 Forum Explores National Issues**

*Emergency number leaders address issues relating to federal policy and programs*

WASHINGTON, DC (February 24, 2003)—Leaders and professionals in the 9-1-1 industry are meeting in Washington today to explore issues regarding America’s emergency number as it relates to our federal government. Hosted by the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), the nation’s 9-1-1 trade organization, 9-1-1 professionals came together at the association’s first ever “9-1-1 Goes to Washington” Critical Issues Forum (CIF).

“National events and agendas in Washington are effecting and redefining the role of 9-1-1,” said John Melcher, NENA president. “Participants in the forum are gaining unique insight into the bodies that implement, enforce and guide national emergency communications policies and programs.”

Today, forum attendees are hearing from dignitaries from the FCC and its Wireless and Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureaus, including Commissioner Kevin Martin; the U.S. Attorney General’s Office; the Department of Homeland Security; USDOT; NCS; Business Software Alliance; and the United Way of America.

Forum attendees are hearing about important issues such as 9-1-1 topics as they relate to the FCC, regulatory issues, and safety and security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In addition, NENA is providing attendees with information on how to work with members of Congress and inform them of the importance and relevance of 9-1-1 issues in their communities back home.

“This Forum reiterates the commitment of 9-1-1 and NENA to our nation’s security,” said Melcher. “We commend the participants of this first Washington 9-1-1 forum—attendees and speakers alike. Now more than ever, we need to build strong relationships with our federal leaders, agencies and allies.”

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A not-for-profit corporation, the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) is the only educational organization dedicated solely to the study, advancement and implementation of 9-1-1 as America’s universal emergency number. With the participation of a wide variety of stakeholders and public safety entities, NENA has an individual membership of more than 7,000 public safety executives, and is organized into 46 chapters. The organization strives to provide an effective and accessible 9-1-1 service for North America, measuring its success in the lives saved by 9-1-1 each day. NENA also develops recommended operating standards and protocol for 9-1-1 services from its headquarters in Columbus, Ohio. Learn more at [www.nena.org](http://www.nena.org).