

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

National Emergency  
Number Association 

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## **Public Safety Files Comments Regarding Hatfield Report**

*NENA, APCO and NASNA Respond to Report on Technical and Operational Issues of Wireless E9-1-1*

COLUMBUS, Ohio (November 19, 2002)— The leading public safety emergency communications organizations NENA, APCO and NASNA filed formal comments with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding Dale Hatfield’s independent report and inquiry of the technical and operations issues of wireless E9-1-1 deployment.

Affirming many of Hatfield’s observations and suggestions, the comments include further discussion about the need for a National 9-1-1 Program Office, increased FCC oversight of wireless E9-1-1 and the improved coordination of 9-1-1 directives with interested federal and state agencies.

The filed comments also provide detail on NENA, APCO and NASNA’s lead initiatives to keep the nation’s 9-1-1 systems effective, affordable and relevant. These include: APCO’s Project LOCATE, NENA’s SWAT, the Public Safety Foundation of America and NENA’s Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Registry.

Addressing readiness and willingness of all parties to deploy wireless E9-1-1 in a timely fashion, the comments note the historical context of wireless carrier waiver bargains, PSAP feasibility and local exchange carrier (LEC) connection challenges.

The comments close with opportunities to plan for future paths, technologies and communications systems in addressing the nation’s wireline E9-1-1 infrastructure, which is referred to by Hatfield as “generally reliable,” but “seriously antiquated.” The comments note the priorities of NENA’s Future Path Plan and the co-convened NENA/ATIS Emergency Services Interconnection Forum (“ESIF”), which offer a defined path for establishing methods and measurements for wireline and wireless E9-1-1 compliance and implementation.

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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 48 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).