



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, December 22, 2005

CONTACT: Patrick Halley
(202) 466-4911, media@nena.org

Two-Thirds of Population Now Covered By Phase II Wireless E9-1-1 *NENA releases current wireless 9-1-1 statistics*

Arlington, VA – More than two-thirds of the nation's population now resides in areas where wireless 9-1-1 includes delivery of the caller's call back number and location to the appropriate public safety answering point (PSAP). While this landmark percentage was reached in recent weeks, there are still large areas of the country (57.3% of counties) not yet providing this important service to wireless customers.

"The 9-1-1 community and wireless industry can be proud of reaching this benchmark," stated NENA President David Jones, ENP. "However, much work still needs to be done to provide this life-saving service in the significantly high number of counties, predominately rural, where it is still not available. The public needs and deserves wireless E9-1-1, regardless of where they live or where they may visit or travel through. It remains critical that Congress provide funding to implement the ENHANCE 911 Act grant program."

The need for precise wireless E9-1-1 location information has been demonstrated in recent weeks resulting in lives saved where the technology exists. Only a month after implementing an E9-1-1 system, on December 12 in Brown County, Wisconsin an injured snowmobiler was saved after making a wireless 9-1-1 call. The caller did not know exactly where he was, but the 9-1-1 telecommunicator did thanks to the Phase II E9-1-1 system. Emergency responders were able to quickly find him and get him the help that he needed. A day after Brown County's E9-1-1 system helped locate the injured snowmobiler, the Calumet County, Wisconsin Sheriff's Department says it was also able to save a life thanks to its new E9-1-1 system. A 13-year-old girl used a cell phone to call for help saying that her mom was having a seizure. She could only tell the 9-1-1 telecommunicator that she was somewhere between Chilton and Neenah but with the precise location provided by the E9-1-1 system, emergency responders were able to find the girl and her mother.

These examples occur on a regular basis around the country with lives being saved because authorities can locate wireless 9-1-1 calls and lives being lost when the technology is not in place. NENA will continue to monitor the progress being made in the deployment of Phase II wireless technology and will work with all parties to meet our goal of 100 percent phase II deployment.

NENA published current wireless E9-1-1 statistics earlier this month measuring the number of counties, individual Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and total population covered by Phase I and Phase II wireless location technology. Phase I includes delivery of the caller's phone number and the cell site being utilized for the 9-1-1 call. Phase II includes delivery of the caller's location and the caller's phone number.

69.7 percent of counties contain PSAPs receiving Phase I data while 42.7 percent of counties have PSAPs accepting Phase II calls. The percentages for individual PSAPs are slightly

improved from previous statistics with 79.3 percent receiving Phase I calls and 53.9 percent Phase II capable. The PSAP statistics translate to 84.5 percent of the US population covered by Phase I and 66.7 percent covered by Phase II enabled PSAPs. As the numbers suggest, the greater population covered than PSAPs with Phase I and II technology in place, particularly for Phase II, indicates that more deployments are occurring in high-density population areas and that rural areas continue to struggle to upgrade their E9-1-1 capabilities. This is a critical reason why funding the ENHANCE 911 Act grant program is so important.

These statistics, part of an ongoing wireless deployment project sponsored by the US Department of Transportation, are available on the NENA web site at http://www.nena.org/911_facts/911fastfacts.htm. More detailed county by county statistics can be found on the wireless deployment section of the NENA web site at <http://nena.ddti.net/>.

###

About the National Emergency Number Association

NENA is *The Voice of 9-1-1*[™]. Now celebrating its 25th year, NENA was established to promote implementation and awareness of 9-1-1 as North America's universal emergency number. NENA has grown to become the leading professional non-profit organization dedicated solely to 9-1-1 emergency communications issues. NENA serves its more than 7,000 members in 46 chapters across the U.S. and Canada through policy advocacy, establishment of technical and operational standards, certification programs and a broad spectrum of educational offerings. Find out more at www.nena.org.