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NENA Releases Current Wireless E9-1-1 Statistics
*More than 50 percent of the nation's PSAPs still not receiving
wireless E9-1-1 Phase II location information*

Washington, DC— 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. The 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/>.

As of September 1st, 68.2 percent of counties contain PSAPs receiving Phase I data while 38.9 percent of counties have PSAPs accepting Phase II calls. The percentages for individual PSAPs are slightly improved from previous statistics with 76.6 percent receiving Phase I calls and 48.5 percent Phase II capable. The PSAP statistics translate to 82 percent of the US population covered by Phase I and 59 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.

NENA is pleased to be participating at a press conference today with Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich at the Frederick County PSAP to announce that all primary PSAPs in the state are Phase II ready. Maryland is the eighth state in the country to announce that all counties in the state can receive Phase II wireless calls. "NENA applauds the state of Maryland for their efforts to provide all 9-1-1 centers with the technology needed to best serve their citizens," said NENA Executive Director Robert Martin. "We challenge the remaining states that have not yet been able to upgrade all of their PSAPs with the necessary technology to keep working toward this goal," added Martin.

The announcement in Maryland is positive, but the same success has not occurred in most states. A major barrier to implementation continues to be a lack of funding for PSAPs. To address this problem NENA worked closely with the E9-1-1 Caucus and helped pass the ENHANCE 911 Act of 2004, authorizing up to \$250 million per year in grants for 9-1-1 system upgrades. However, to date no monies have been appropriated to fund such grants. In testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee on September 1st NENA President David Jones strongly encouraged Congress to provide funding stating that "the continued success and sustainability of our 9-1-1 system will greatly benefit from such action."

The need for precise wireless E9-1-1 location information has been demonstrated in recent weeks resulting in lives saved where the technology exists and unfortunate lives lost where the technology is not in place. On June 30th in Mesa, AZ a six year old girl dialed 9-1-1 on a cell

phone telling the emergency dispatcher that her mother was asleep and would not wake up. In fact the mother was suffering from a life-threatening seizure. Rescue units were able to arrive quickly on the scene due to the precise location information provided by the cell phone and the woman was saved. On June 23rd, a woman's life was saved thanks to the Phase II location data given to the Galveston County, TX Emergency Communications Department. The woman was thrown from a personal watercraft onto a riverbank where she laid hidden in tall grass suffering from a broken back. Luckily, she had her cell phone with her and dialed 9-1-1. Emergency crews were able to locate her using the GPS data.

The same can not be said for a Minneapolis man last month who dialed 9-1-1 from the trunk of a car reporting that he had been shot. Authorities could not locate him but later found him dead on the side of the road. A similar situation occurred in Philadelphia last month as well when a man dialed 9-1-1 on his cell phone twice after being abducted. One call lasted 18 minutes but the man did not answer any of the dispatcher's requests for information. He was later found dead.

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 implores every state to make all possible efforts to ensure that 100 percent of PSAPs are Phase II ready. NENA also encourages wireless carriers to make all possible efforts to work cooperatively with PSAPs in the deployment of wireless E9-1-1.

Finally, NENA encourages Congress to provide funding for the national 9-1-1 Implementation and Coordination Office (ICO) to develop a program and to administer grants to PSAPs for 9-1-1 system upgrades. As the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus Co-chairs recently wrote in a letter to the White House Office of Management and Budget encouraging full funding for the ENHANCE 911 Act, "We feel that there is no better use of public monies than to assist first responders to save lives in every community across America. Full funding of the ENHANCE 911 Act is a necessary step to bring our country's emergency response system into the 21st century."

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.

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About NENA

NENA's mission is to foster the technological advancement, availability, and implementation of a universal emergency telephone number system. In carrying out its mission, NENA promotes research, planning, training and education. The protection of human life, the preservation of property and the maintenance of general community security are among NENA's objectives. With more than 7,000 members in 46 chapters across the U.S. and Canada, NENA serves as "The Voice of 9-1-1" through policy advocacy, the establishment of national standards, certification and testing programs, and a wide variety of educational offerings. For more information, visit www.nena.org.