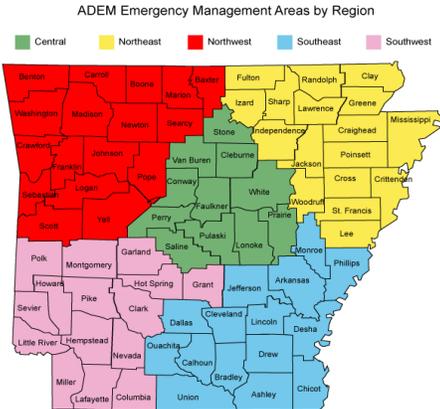


FirstNet in Arkansas



What is the APSBN?

The Arkansas Interoperability Communications Committee (AICC) is actively working to develop the plan to implement public safety broadband in the state of Arkansas. It will be called the Arkansas Public Safety Broadband Network, or APSBN. The APSBN is Arkansas's portion of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network, or NPSBN.



What are the benefits of the APSBN?

The APSBN will provide a secure, reliable, and dedicated data network for Arkansas. This network will be used by public safety personnel and their agencies for emergency and day-to-day use. It will also ensure adequate network capacity during an emergency situation in order to save lives, reduce injuries, and prevent acts of crime and terror.



Who will have access to the APSBN?

The APSBN will be built to ensure that it is fully interoperable across all local and state jurisdictions, as well as across state lines to neighboring states. It is especially important that rural areas are included in coverage to allow public safety personnel anywhere in the nation to send and receive critical video and data. A Rural Leadership Council (RLC) with 2 representatives from each of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) Emergency Areas has been developed to ensure the needs of rural Arkansas are met. In addition, Urban Area Focus Groups are being used to address the needs of Arkansas's cities with a population of 20,000 or more.



Public safety responders across all disciplines, such as police, fire, emergency medical, etc., will have access to the APSBN to quickly send, receive, and access vital information. Text, pictures and videos, as well as maps and building data, are just some examples of information that could be utilized by first responders during an emergency.



Will the APSBN replace AWIN or my local LMR network in use today?

Initially the APSBN will only provide mission-critical, high-speed data services. These services will supplement the voice capabilities of Land Mobile Radio (LMR) networks, such as the Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN), as well as others currently being used throughout the state. In time, cellular-quality voice will be offered for administrative calls and daily public safety voice communications. The network will not become a viable replacement for LMR until mission-critical voice functionality meets or exceeds current LMR performance and reliability.



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