

Media Contact: Marty Berkowitz, 614-644-8608
marty.berkowitz@das.ohio.gov

New Technology Enhances Ohio First Responder Communications

COLUMBUS (Nov. 30, 2017) —Ohio is improving first responder communications through an agreement with FirstNet, the public safety network that will enhance communications capabilities between all areas of first responders (federal, state, county and local), including police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS).

“This technology will transform public safety communications by providing a modern, digital and high-performance network capability to first responders across the state and the nation,” said Rick Schmahl, Ohio program director, Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS). “Ohio is joining more than 30 other states in this national initiative to deploy a seamless, interoperable network to put cutting edge tools in the hands of those charged with securing and protecting our citizens and businesses.”

This initiative complements MARCS, Ohio’s existing emergency communications network, which has been the essential backbone for enabling first responder communications for the past two decades. MARCS is a land mobile radio network and FirstNet adds data transfer capability.

With FirstNet, emergency responders will have access to digital information, allowing them to share photos of a missing person, such as a child, or videos of an unfolding event as it happens. The information is shared across the first responder network in real time, whether voice, text, video or other forms of data.

###