



On Monday May 24th, the E9-1-1 Institute went on the road to Palo Alto, California for its first ever “Hometown Security” Forum. The event was held at Stanford University and involved a high level collection of local, state, and federal leaders who gathered to discuss the state of readiness of Northern California to respond to emergencies and to highlight the role that technology plays in emergency responses.

The event opened with Errol Suthers, Deputy Director of Homeland Security for the State of California, providing the keynote address. Mr. Souther’s speech was extremely insightful, focusing on both local and national security. His unique knowledge and experience added greatly to the event.

Following Mr. Suthers keynote there were a series of panel discussions. The first panel “Community Preparedness” focused on public safety issues in Northern California.

Panelists included Charles Cullen, the Regional Director of Wireless 9-1-1, Nick Marinaro the Palo Alto Fire Chief, and Barbara Cimino the Palo Alto Disaster Preparedness Coordinator. Santa Clara Police Chief Stephan Lodge was the moderator.

The second panel “Technology and Public Safety” included Sheryl Contois, Chair of the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperable project; Matthew Lewis CFO of Rosum, and Doug Kiner, Communications Specialist for the City of Mountain View.

Following the policy discussions there was a special luncheon honoring the Congresswoman Eshoo for her work in improving our country’s emergency communications systems. Chip Yarbrough, President of CALNENA and Bill McMurray, President of NENA introduced the Congresswoman and E9-1-1 Institute Director Gregory L. Rohde presented her with a special award for her work in passing the ENHANCE 9-1-1 Act of 2004. It also provided us an opportunity to recognize the leadership of Representative Anna Eshoo. We were proud to appear with her in her hometown.

Overall, the “Hometown Security” policy forum at Stanford University was a success. Both panels were educational and each panelist added greatly to the event. The Institute looks forward to hosting future “Hometown Security” forums, working with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and our sponsors.