



## HOMETOWN SECURITY EVENT SUMMARY

The E9-1-1 Institute hosted a “**Hometown Security Forum**” with Senator Conrad Burns (R-MT) in Great Falls, Montana on September 1, 2005.

Issues related to the state of preparedness in Montana and rural states were discussed. We also examined ways in which technology can be an enhancer for public safety. In addition to the nice crowd that gathered in the beautiful Great Falls Civic Center, the Forum was taped by the Cable 7 to be broadcasted at a later date. It was also broadcasted live, with the help of Benefis Healthcare in Great Falls and the North Central Montana Healthcare Alliance to about a dozen sites across the State of Montana.



Due to the recovery effort from Hurricane Katrina, Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, Michael Brown, was not able to attend. However, former NARUC President and Montana State Public Service Commissioner Bob Rowe stepped in and provided an insightful keynote address. Senator Conrad Burns was also honored by the E9-1-1 Institute for his work to pass “The ENHANCE 9-1-1 Act of 2004” during a special luncheon hosted by the Institute following the Forum.

Over thirty-five new people joined the Institute at the widely attended forum. We loved Montana so much we hope to have another opportunity to return!

Following the Hometown Security Forum, Senator Burns hosted a **Senate Commerce Committee Hearing on the IP-Enabled Voice Communications and Public Safety Act of 2005**. The legislation, sponsored by Senators Nelson (D-FL), Burns (R-MT), and Clinton (D-NY), and Representatives Gorton (D-TN), Shimkus (R-IL) and Eshoo (D-CA), would:

- ❖ Require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to “establish requirements or obligations on providers on IP-enabled voice service to ensure that 911 and E-911 services are available to customers of IP-enabled voice services;”
- ❖ Require IP-enabled voice providers to notify their customers if their service cannot provide 9-1-1 or E9-1-1 service;
- ❖ Require entities which own or control the “necessary emergency services infrastructure” to provide non-discriminatory access to IP-enabled voice service providers;
- ❖ Establish liability immunity related to IP-enable voice service that is on par with liability protections afforded to 9-1-1 service over wireless or traditional land line telephone service; and
- ❖ Require the Joint Program Office established under the ENHANCE 911 Act to develop a plan for migrating from the existing 9-1-1 system to a national IP-enabled emergency network.

The general consensus from the witnesses testifying (which included myself) was that this legislation is necessary to help ensure E9-1-1 access over IP-enabled communications systems



**A special thank you to the Great Falls Hometown Security Forum sponsors:**

ATX TECHNOLOGIES**	BELLSOUTH**
CINGULAR**	CTIA88
INTRADO**	KLJ SOLUTIONS*
LOGISTIC SYSTEMS, INC.*	NENA**
NEXTEL88	NEUSTAR*
NORTH CENTRAL MONTANA HEALTH CARE ALLIANCE*	
NINE ONE ONE, INC.*	RURAL CELLULAR ASSOCIATION**
SBC**	TCS**
TRUE POSITION**	VERIZON**
VONAGE**	

In additional thank you to our **2005 Donors**, who through their support made 2005 a successful year for the E9-1-1 Institute. Their donations made events such as the Annual Honors Awards banquet, our Hometown Security Forums, a number Roundtable Events on Capitol Hill and the Tech Fair a success.

**E9-1-1 Institute Donors\* for 2005 are:**

<b>ATX TECHNOLOGIES</b>	<b>BELLSOUTH</b>
<b>CINGULAR</b>	<b>CTIA</b>
<b>INTRADO</b>	<b>NENA</b>
<b>NEXTEL</b>	<b>RURAL CELLULAR ASSOCIATION</b>
<b>SBC</b>	<b>TCS</b>
<b>TRUE POSITION</b>	<b>VERIZON</b>
<b>VONAGE</b>	

\* Sponsors pledge to specific events

\*\* Donors pledge \$10,000 per year to the Institute