



E9-1-1 INSTITUTE, NENA, AND APCO KICK OFF NATIONAL 9-1-1 EDUCATION MONTH

On March 30th, the E9-1-1 Institute, the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) and the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials - International (APCO) kicked off **National 9-1-1 Education Month** by hosting a “**9-1-1 Block Party**” in conjunction with the District of Columbia’s Office of Unified Communications. The event took place at Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School in Washington, DC.

The event is part of month-long drive to encourage educators, parents, public officials, and telecommunications industry leaders to join in a national effort to educate all Americans on the importance and proper use of the 9-1-1 system.

The 9-1-1 Block Party began with a press conference, after which local students had the opportunity to learn about 9-1-1 and emergency response in an interactive atmosphere that featured a fire department ladder truck, a 9-1-1 Simulator, the Hazard House, an EMS vehicle, an Emergency Management Mobile Command Post, a police horse, a police motorcycle, a K-9 Unit, and a SWAT truck.

The children in attendance interacted with emergency response personnel to learn the when, how and why to use of 9-1-1 and the function of the public safety units which answer the calls. In addition, students received safety tips from McGruff the Crime Dog.

On March 10, 2008, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 537, sponsored by Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus Co-Chairs Representative Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Representative John Shimkus (R-IL), which endorsed April as **National 9-1-1 Education Month**. Eight national organizations then formed the “**The Coalition for 9-1-1 Education,**” with the mission of promoting and delivering 9-1-1 education to all age groups.

Gregory L. Rohde, Executive Director of the E9-1-1 Institute, said: *“The need for promoting 9-1-1 education is never-ending. It is imperative that all political leaders, educators, parents, and others in positions of civic responsibility make an extra effort this month to do something to promote awareness of 9-1-1 and its role in keeping our communities safe and secure.”*

Michael Amarosa, E9-1-1 Institute -Chairman of the Board said: *“This is a model that any school, and call center, and educational organization or institution should adopt. We hope this event will encourage others to do the same across the nation.”*

Bill Carrow, APCO, 1st Vice President, *“This is what it’s all about! Education and interaction of all age groups! Understanding when to call 9-1-1! Understanding the emergency service systems that are available! ... It is people teaching people what 9-1-1 is all about. On behalf of APCO, NENA and the E9-1-1 Institute thank you for allowing us to be part of this great day.”*