

Coalition for 9-1-1 Education

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National Public Safety Organizations and Wireless Industry Support “National 9-1-1 Education Month”

Washington, D.C., -- A coalition of national public safety organizations and the wireless industry are calling upon local leaders, public safety officials and elected officials to promote 9-1-1 education in communities around the country. The month of April was first recognized by the U.S. Congress in 2008 as National 9-1-1 Education Month. The **“COALITION FOR 9-1-1 EDUCATION”** is urging local events such as school outreach, street fairs featuring first responders and their equipment, and distribution of 9-1-1 educational materials throughout the month of April.

The Coalition is an alliance of national organizations dedicated to advancing public safety communications and the wireless industry who have joined together to advance 9-1-1 education. The organizations are the:

- E9-1-1 Institute;
- National Emergency Number Association (NENA);
- Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International
- National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators (NASNA);
- CTIA – The Wireless Association®;
- 911 Industry Alliance; and
- 9-1-1 For Kids®;

A national kick-off event in Washington, DC will occur on April 9, 2010. The 9-1-1 Block Party will be sponsored by the Office of Unified Communications at the Ferebee-Hope Community School in the District of Columbia.

“Effective 9-1-1 education is critical at all ages. We encourage you to join us in our efforts to promote education throughout the month of April,” stated Gregory Rohde, Executive Director of the E9-1-1 Institute. “Arrange a school visit to your local PSAP, ask representatives from your local PSAP to visit your school, hold a street fair or block party, offer to go to your child or grandchild’s class and read about 9-1-1. **WE ALL NEED TO GET INVOLVED!**”

“We can never do enough to educate the public about 9-1-1. The commitment of this impressive coalition of public safety and industry to dedicate time and effort to advance 9-1-1 education will help save lives and will produce a significant return on whatever effort is made, stated Michael Amarosa, E9-1-1 Institute Board Chairman. “In addition to school-based activities, there could be conferences and training events for parents, teachers, care-givers that bring together the public safety community and industry leaders in a common effort.”

"In today’s ever changing communications landscape, we cannot underestimate the importance of better educating the public and managing public expectations about the 9-1-1 system. We are pleased to join all of these groups in support of increased 9-1-1 education efforts," said NENA President Craig Whittington.

"In today's technically oriented culture, education is the link between our communities and first responders. NASNA, as a part of our mission, looks forward to working in each of the states to develop the materials and presentations that will bring our leaders, responders and citizens together through education," said Richard Taylor, President of NASNA.

"APCO members are on the front lines of emergency calls every day," said Richard Mirgon, APCO President. "Our nation's 9-1-1 telecommunicators are challenged daily and an educated 9-1-1 calling public makes their job easier and ensures positive outcomes for all parties involved. We think this is a tremendous idea and we are very pleased to be a part of it," said Mr. Mirgon.

"We are chartered to educate children on how to summon Public Safety services. This month will underscore that need and highlight the activities to accomplish that end. It will also emphasize the overall effort to educate our entire Nation in this vital task, properly calling 911. We are pleased and honored to be a part of this undertaking," said Elise Kim, the Executive Director of 911 for Kids.

"Modernizing 9-1-1 is the key to an overall informed emergency system," said Paul Fahey, Executive Director of the 9-1-1 Industry Alliance.

"Every day, more than 291,000 9-1-1 calls are made using a wireless device and that number continues to grow every year. Our industry supports the 9-1-1 education month because it's important that people of all ages know what to do in the event of an emergency. We believe knowledge is key to saving lives and recognize our industry's important role in helping the public safety community reach those who need help," said Steve Largent, president and CEO of CTIA-The Wireless Association®.

Carla Anderson, Deputy Executive Director stated, "The National Kick-Off event in Washington, DC will occur on April 9, 2010. The 9-1-1 Block Party will be sponsored by the Office of Unified Communications at the Ferebee-Hope Community School in the District of Columbia Public Schools." Anderson stated, "E-mail Us ~ Share your events, plans and stories with us. We'd like to share them on our website.

For additional information contact us at contactus@e911institute.org
or visit us at www.e911institute.org.



About the E9-1-1 Institute: is a non-profit organization which shares the mission of the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus to assist in promoting public education on E9-1-1 and emergency communications issues. The E9-1-1 Institute provides informational support to members of the Congressional Caucus as they pursue their mission of improving 9-1-1 emergency communications. Find out more at www.e911institute.org.



About NENA: National Emergency Number Association serves the public safety community as the only professional organization solely focused on 9-1-1 policy, technology, operations, and education issues. With more than 7,000 members in 48 chapters across the United States and around the globe, NENA promotes the implementation and awareness 9-1-1 and international three-digit emergency communications systems. NENA works with public policy leaders, emergency services and telecommunications industry partners, like-minded public safety associations, and other stakeholder groups to develop and carry out critical programs and initiatives, to facilitate the creation of an IP-based Next Generation 9-1-1 system, and to establish industry leading standards, training, and certifications. Find out more at www.nena.org & www.nena.org/education/911-education-resources.



About APCO International: The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International is the world's oldest and largest professional organization dedicated to the enhancement of public safety communications. APCO International serves the professional needs of its 15,000 members worldwide by creating a platform for setting professional standards, addressing professional issues and providing education, products and services for people who manage, operate, maintain and supply the communications systems used by police, fire and emergency medical dispatch agencies. Find out more at www.apcointl.org & www.apcointl.org/new/news/911education.php.



About NASNA: The purpose of NASNA is to promote information sharing amongst those states with programs dedicated to implementing 9-1-1 emergency telephone systems; assist other states with resolving issues necessary to accomplish statewide implementation and maintenance; encourage the establishment of a coordination

person within each state or province; identify and recommend minimum standards for 9-1-1 emergency telephone systems; identify and recommend appropriate legislation or rules concerning the administration of statewide 9-1-1 telephone system programs and serve as a knowledge resource for the membership of the Association. Find out more at www.nasna911.org.



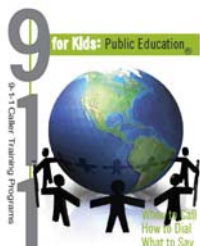
About 9IA: The 9-1-1 Industry Alliance ("9IA") was established in December 2005 by a group of prominent industry leaders. The vision of the organization's founders is that 9IA will play an important role as the voice of industry companies on major public policy issues, and that the expertise of industry leaders can assist public

policymakers and government emergency communications professionals as complex choices are made regarding advanced 9-1-1 alternatives in the years ahead. Find out more at www.911alliance.org.



About CTIA. CTIA-The Wireless Association® (www.ctia.org) is an international organization representing the wireless communications industry. Membership in the association includes wireless carriers and their suppliers, as well as providers and manufacturers of wireless data services and products. CTIA advocates on behalf of its

members at all levels of government. The association also coordinates the industry's voluntary best practices and initiatives, and sponsors the industry's leading wireless tradeshows. CTIA was founded in 1984 and is based in Washington, DC.



About 9-1-1 For Kids. 9-1-1 for Kids® is the official emergency caller training program created by US 9-1-1 communication center officials, emergency medical, fire and law enforcement professionals who were charged with the task of developing educational tools to help reduce the alarmingly high numbers of non-emergency calls made to 9-1-1.

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