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NG9-1-1 Talking Points

These talking points are intended to assist 9-1-1 and GIS professionals with explaining the NG9-1-1 need and plan in Virginia.

- The current, analog telephone network, which is the backbone for today's 9-1-1 network, is being abandoned in favor of a digital, IP network.
- The Commonwealth must start transitioning the 9-1-1 network from analog to digital as well.
- The Virginia E-911 Services Board has started the planning for the transition to a Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) system.
- The core of NG9-1-1 is an Emergency Services IP Network or ESInet.
- The ESInet can be shared with other public safety applications (such as VCIN, COMLINC, regional records systems, etc.) and provides the backbone for connectivity between all public safety answering points (PSAP) in Virginia.
- The ESInet will contain several NG9-1-1 core services that perform functions such as cybersecurity, validating an incoming 9-1-1 call, routing a 9-1-1 call to the correct PSAP and providing all available data to the PSAP. Fortunately, the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) has defined many of these functions.
- NG9-1-1 will rely heavily on local geospatial data for routing calls. Significant effort will be needed to ensure the geospatial data is evaluated and optimized for use in NG9-1-1.
- To ensure interoperability among PSAPs and security of the network, standards must be set for the ESInet and NG9-1-1 Core Services.
- The E-911 Services Board is proposing legislation in 2016 that will define the Board as the standard setting body for NG9-1-1.
- These standards will not mandate local PSAPs to deploy NG9-1-1, but will provide a standard when they are ready to deploy.
- During 2016, the Board will be working with stakeholders to determine a sustainable funding model for all 9-1-1 services.
- Actions to transform the outdated system into a digital network that is faster, more efficient, and more capable of serving Virginia's citizens and visitors must begin now.