



**Texas 9-1-1 Alliance
Commission on State Emergency Communications
Municipal Emergency Communication Districts Association**

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9-1-1 Celebrates 50 Years of Service

Austin, Texas – 2/16/2018 – 9-1-1 authorities in Texas (*Commission on State Emergency Communications, Texas 9-1-1 Alliance and the Municipal Emergency Communication Districts Association*) announce the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first 9-1-1 call. On February 16, 1968, Alabama Speaker of the House, Mr. Rankin Fite, made the first 9-1-1 call from the Haleyville City Hall.

Since then, 9-1-1 technology has evolved and continues to evolve to meet consumer expectations. Each advancement has improved our nation's ability to get better, more reliable information to first responders so they can do their job of saving lives and property.

As we celebrate 50 years of service in the United States, it is an important reminder to the significance of 9-1-1 emergency services. Without 9-1-1, emergency services such as EMS, Fire and Police would not be able to get to those in need of help.

Most recently, a major change to multi-line telephone systems (MLTS) has been the introduction of Kari's Law. In Texas, Kari's Law requires direct access to 9-1-1 without having to dial an additional digit such as 9. This law is important because it ensures those who call 9-1-1 from an MLTS phone get the help they need.

As 9-1-1 continues to adapt to other needs of the community, consumers will see the adaptation of Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911). NG911 includes 9-1-1 being able to find those in emergency situations quicker and pinpoint their location more efficiently. It also includes text to 9-1-1, which will eventually allow for consumers to send not only texts to 9-1-1, but also pictures and videos.

For 9-1-1 to provide the excellent emergency services that the community needs, adapting NG911 services will become more important than ever—especially when we have natural disasters such as Hurricane Harvey. All of the Texas 9-1-1 Authorities are excited to celebrate 50 years of 9-1-1 throughout the United States and hope to see 9-1-1 continue to provide emergency services that fit the communities' needs.

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