

Next Generation 9-1-1

Public safety has come a long way since celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first 9-1-1 call in 2018, but with progress also comes challenges. The Major County Sheriffs of America recognizes the importance of striking a balance between local control, modernization and automation and has taken an important leadership role to confront the challenges unique to 9-1-1. Possibilities abound and it is an exciting time to lead such an important and critical mission.

9-1-1 systems of the United States are critical infrastructure. While a model for the entire world, current systems lack the advanced functionality, interoperability, and capabilities that come with the adoption of new digital communications technologies. As communications technologies have outpaced legacy systems, the need for modernization to incorporate new and evolving capabilities of broadband voice and data communications is essential for the safety and security of our communities.

As Sheriffs, we know the importance of maintaining and advocating for the preservation of local control and as such, MCSA is in the unique position of taking a leadership role in the creation of an advanced 9-1-1 system that can interact with modern communications devices.

The MCSA, in close partnership with our colleagues at the National Sheriffs' Association and the Major Cities Chiefs of Police Association, met and collectively recognized the failures of the current 9-1-1 infrastructure and are committed to fixing it. Carefully examining all facets like cybersecurity and interoperability and threading the needle of federal support while maintaining local control is no small undertaking, but Sheriffs and subject matter experts from within the MCSA are **leading the way**.

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