State of 911
Webinar Series

State of 911 Webinar FAQ: 911 Collaboration in Prehospital Blood Programs & Federal Communications Commission Update

May 20, 2025

Implementing a Successful Prehospital Blood Program: Collaboration is Key

The following answers are provided by:

- Melissa Alterio, M.S., CPE, RPL - Executive Director, Cobb County Department of Emergency Communications
- Andrea Pritchett, ENP, RPL - Systems Manager, Cobb County Department of Emergency Communications

Have you had discussions with the protocol providers on writing an actual pathway to determine when blood is sent?

Not at this time. Our response plan regarding the blood program was created in collaboration with our Medical Director, Dr. Nix. Additionally, the NHTSA National 911 Program is beginning to have those conversations with protocol and guideline providers to support these efforts.

When you say 'mobilize' MedOps, what does that mean? Where are those units located? Is that where the blood is stored?

For us, that just means to dispatch them on the call, along with what the initial response was.

We only have one MedOps unit, located at a fire station, so it just falls within the run card, and it will respond all over the county if it meets the appropriate criteria for it to be on the response.

My understanding is the blood is stored on the MedOps unit and is returned to the blood partner if unused within a certain timeframe so it can be used elsewhere to keep it from expiring.

Is transport time taken into account when MedOps is dispatched?

I don't believe so at this time. We are not a rural county, so normally our transport time is not extended. I do know that our MedOps unit can transport if needed, but it does have to meet a strict guideline for them to do that.

What percentage of calls require blood and blood products?

I don't know the percentage for our center, but I know since we went live on February 14, I believe we've had 12 calls where we've dispatched blood.

Federal Communications Commission Update

The following answers are provided by:

- Zack DiLeo - Attorney Advisor, Federal Communications Commission
- Rachel Wehr - Deputy Division Chief of Policy and Licensing Division, Federal Communications Commission

How many PSAPs have currently migrated to NG911 technology?

The FCC does not collect data on the status of NG911 technology in individual PSAPs. The FCC's annual 911 Fee Reports contain some data relevant to NG911 deployment and expenditures at the state and territorial level.

Annual 911 Fee Reports

Is a request "Valid" if it does not include In-State Point of Interconnections (POIs)?

Under the FCC's default rules, for a 911 Authority request to be valid, the request must designate at least one in-state NG911 delivery point where originating service providers (OSPs) can deliver 911 traffic. However, the request can designate out-of-state delivery points as well, which 911 Authorities and OSPs can use by mutual agreement. 911 Authorities and OSPs can also negotiate alternative agreements to connect out of state, so long as the OSP notifies the Commission of such alternative agreements.

NG911 Services Information

NG911 Rules

NG911 Valid Request Form Download

Is there a technical Standard for Phase 1 "Basic Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)"

messaging? In Phase 2, what are the commonly accepted NG911 standards? Does that mean the OSP has to deliver Presence Information Data Format - Location Object (PIDF-LO)?

For Phase 1, the Commission found "SIP" to be a standard technical term used in NG911 reference materials, and declined to establish additional specific technical requirements to meet the elements of a Phase 1 valid request.

For Phase 2, the Commission discussed the definition of "commonly accepted standards" in its Report and Order.

Under the NG911 rules, the definition of "commonly accepted standards" is "[t]he technical standards followed by the communications industry for network, device, and Internet Protocol connectivity that—(1) Enable interoperability; and (2) Are— (i) Developed and approved by a standards development organization that is accredited by a United States standards body (such as the American National Standards Institute) or an equivalent international standards body in a process that— (A) Is open to the public, including open for participation by any person; and (B) Provides for a conflict resolution process; (ii) Subject to an open comment and input process before being finalized by the standards development organization; (iii) Consensus-based; and (iv) Made publicly available once approved.

The Commission stated in the Report and Order that the i3 standard would meet the adopted definition of a commonly accepted standard.

NG911 Services Information

Report & Order: Facilitating Implementation of Next Generation 911 Services (NG911)

Is the FCC registry of 911 Authorities requesting Phase 1 publicly available?

Yes. The FCC registry is accessible at FCC Electronic Comment Filing System by searching for docket 25-143, and requests submitted through the registry can be viewed by the public. However, 911 Authorities also have the option of submitting requests directly to OSPs rather than filing in the FCC registry. Such direct requests are not viewable in the registry.

Public Notice: NG911 Compliance Dates and Filing Instructions

How do you foresee verifying interoperability and reliability? Are there specific requirements for reliability and availability?

The FCC has sought comment on these issues in the NG911 Interoperability and Reliability Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that the Commission adopted in March which can be found at FNPRM: FCC Proposes Action to Improve Next Generation 911. Comments in the proceeding are due on July 18, 2025, and reply comments are due on August 21, 2025. Once comments and replies are received, the FCC will consider potential adoption of requirements based on the comment record.

How is height above ground level (AGL) measured when a building is built into a hillside?

The FCC's March 2025 Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on wireless 911 location sought comment on the availability of reliable terrain data to support accurate AGL-based vertical location of 911 calls. We anticipate that comments filed in this proceeding will help address specific scenarios such as the one raised in this question.

FNPRM: Wireless 911 Location Accuracy