June 2013

Find Me 911 Coalition

Find me 911 is an effort supported by more than 90,000 individuals and local and national organizations representing a broad range of 911 operators and first responders – emergency medical services personnel, fire fighters and police – as well as members of the general public. They all recognize the critically important public safety need to ensure that 911 works in today's wireless age.

A sampling of organizations that have already signed on:

- **American Academy of Emergency Medicine** (AAEM), which represents more than 2,400 emergency physicians;

- **International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO** (IUPA), which represents more than 70,000 law enforcement professionals and law enforcement support personnel;

- **911Lifeline,** a membership association providing services and resources to the nation's 911 professionals;

- **U.S. First Responders Association** (USFRA), a non-profit professional and social network of firefighters, EMS, rescue, law enforcement, military and civilian support teams;

- **The Denise Amber Lee Foundation,** a non-profit dedicated to promoting and supporting public safety through uniform training, standardized protocols, defined measurable outcomes, and technological advances to the 911 system.

- **State and Local 911 Organizations,** including Grays Harbor E-911 (Wash.); Iron County 911 (Mo.); Effingham 911 (Ill.); Susquehanna Fire & Rescue Co. #4 (Pa.); Claiborne County Office of Emergency Management Homeland Security (Tenn.); Newberg Volunteer Rescue Squad & Fire Department (Ore.); Grassy Fork Volunteer Fire Department (Tenn.); Wood County Dispatch Center (Wis.); and Pocono Summit Volunteer Fire Company (Pa.); Ramsey Springs Volunteer Fire Department (Miss.); Putnam Lake Fire Department (NY); Whitehall Police Department (NY) Washington County Department of Public Safety (NY).

Find Me 911 is diverse in geography and diverse in first responders. The coalition includes members in all 50 states, from New York to Chicago and from Houston to Casper, Wyoming. It includes New York police officers, firefighters in rural Tennessee and Missouri, dispatchers from Indiana, and the administrators of big city 911 departments in California.

A Sampling of Comments from Those Who've Joined:

". . .In the wireless era, accurate information to locate 911 callers is of the utmost importance. AAEM supports Find Me 911's mission to provide first responders with the most accurate location information and thereby help to reduce transport time to the emergency department. When seconds are critical, quick, safe transport is in the best interest of the patient and the treating emergency physician."
–The American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM)

"We dispatchers have been begging for new cell advances for damnation and a day. The time has come."
– Indiana 911 dispatcher

"In an emergency the clock is ticking and not in your favor. . . The faster they find you the more options they have to save you. Emergency responders cannot save you if they cannot find you. Period."
–Basecamp Expeditions

"I'm a 911 dispatcher and know the difficulties. Emergency situations mess people up. Even if you can talk, it's no guarantee that you can think or speak clearly."
– Indiana 911 dispatcher

"We're proud to support the effort that best protects the public and provide the 911 Communications personnel with the essential information to get responders to an emergency scene as soon as possible."
–911Lifeline

"One minute late in this world too frequently means someone makes it one minute to early into the next world. Time is KING!"
– California emergency responder instructor

". . .By creating a quicker, more efficient response time, to police, firefighters and emergency medical teams, more lives will be saved."
–Lights 4 Love

"Accurate location information in a real-time emergency situation is not only important, it is necessary to ensure we in the 911 Communications field are providing the best possible service to those we serve."
-Washington County Department of Public Safety

Having accurate location information is "Extremely important. Could be life or death."
–West Virginian

"Our motto is 'Providing the people of Wood County the help they need when they need it the most' and that is not possible without proper information and location from our callers. Efforts like this one to strengthen the 911 system are valuable. I am one voice but a group like this can speak much louder."
–Dispatch Manager, Wood County Wisconsin

"My wife, Denise, was able to make a six minute 911 phone call on her kidnapper's cell phone without his knowledge. I know in my heart that she thought the call could be traced if she just kept the line open long enough. Sadly, they could not locate her and she was eventually found murdered and buried in a shallow grave.

I can't help but think how many tens of thousands of citizens die every year because telecommunicators cannot locate the cell phone calling 911. It is not only painful for the courageous public safety personnel but for the 911 community at large and the public. "
–Nathan Lee, President, Denise Amber Lee Foundation