



911 Minimum Standards and Best Practices

Last Amended June 23, 2021

Minimum Standards

1. A PSAP shall have at least two telecommunicators answering 911 calls at all times and will also staff sufficiently to meet minimum standard #7 by utilizing either staff employed by their PSAP, utilizing an agreement with another PSAP within Utah whereby that PSAP can make calls and dispatch a full emergency response, or utilizing Virtual Consolidation as defined in UCA's Strategic Plan.¹
2. For each medical call processed, the PSAP shall utilize EMD caller interrogation protocols that contain, at a minimum, the following:
 - a. The specific pieces of information that must be gathered for each type of call; and
 - b. Pre-arrival instructions/post-dispatch instructions designed to address caller or patient/victim safety and/or to preserve evidence;² and
 - c. PSAPs should dispatch high-priority medical, fire and law enforcement calls as soon as location and call-type are verified.
3. The PSAP shall implement and maintain a Quality Assurance ("QA") program that reviews 911 call recordings from each discipline (police, fire and medical) processed by the PSAP and provides feedback to the associated telecommunicator. The QA program should at a minimum meet the APCO/NENA Quality Assurance program standard with regards to 911 calls as set forth in APCO/NENA ANS 1.107.1.2015.³
4. The PSAP shall not allow a telecommunicator to take/process a 911 call alone unless the telecommunicator has completed the PSAP's training program and is EMD Certified.
5. The PSAP shall implement and maintain, either internally or through a contract, a training program that contains the following elements:

- a. All certified telecommunicators shall maintain all required certifications listed under the POST requirements;
- b. All PSAP trainers shall be actively certified as a trainer/instructor from a nationally recognized organization, such as POST, International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (“IAED”), NENA, APCO, or another organization approved in advance by the 911 Division;^{4,5} and
- c. Meets the APCO Minimum Training Standards for Public Safety Telecommunicators as set forth in the APCO ANS 3.103.2.2015 or the NENA Minimum Training Standards.⁶

PSAPs are allowed to exempt non-citizen telecommunicators who were hired prior to April, 2018 who obtain certification through another source such as APCO or NENA.

- 6. The PSAP shall not intentionally manipulate 911 call counts or other data. Examples include, but are not limited to, manipulating ECaTS services to include 10-digit phone numbers in 911 call counts and/or making non-emergency 911 calls/texts by PSAP or other governmental employees (mandated test calls/texts not included).⁷
- 7. Ninety percent (90%) of all 911 calls arriving at the PSAP shall be answered within fifteen (15) seconds and ninety-five percent (95%) of calls arriving at the PSAP shall be answered within twenty (20) seconds. This standard will be measured using the "PSAP Answer Time" report available through ECaTS. For purposes of compliance with this minimum standard, the following criteria should be used when generating the report: Select Range - Last Year (January-December); Period Group- Year; Call Type - 911 Calls; Abandoned Filters - Exclude Abandoned; Agency Affiliation - Default except unselect training. For the purposes of compliance with this standard, the box showing the “% answer time < 15seconds” and “% answer time < 20 seconds” under the “Overall Percentage” will be used.⁸
- 8. If the transfer of a 911 call has to occur, the PSAP shall follow the NENA Call Answering Standard/Model Recommendation.⁹
- 9. The PSAP shall maintain a comprehensive resiliency and back-up plan to mitigate events that may disrupt 911 service to a community; this may include, but is not limited to, major equipment failures, facility issues, natural or man-made disasters or any other event that reduces or eliminates the performance ability of the PSAP.¹⁰

Best Practices

- 1. The PSAP should accept text-to-911 and adopt standard operating procedures for handling the text calls.¹¹
 - 2. The PSAP should adopt an Acute Traumatic & Chronic Stress Management
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Standard, which may include the Utah Critical Incident Stress Management Team. Any adopted standard should call for local staff to assume task responsibility for implementation and evaluation of all elements of the Comprehensive Stress Management Programs (“CSMP”). Such tasks would include procuring CSMP funding, identifying and coordinating CSMP resources and facilitating access to related services including Peer Support, Critical Incident Stress Management, local mental health trauma therapists, and other elements of the CSMP.¹²

3. The PSAP should have up-to-date Policies and Procedures including applicable policies and procedures found in NENA’s 9-1-1 Center Operations Standards PSAP Operations SOPs located at <https://www.nena.org/page/OperationsStandards>.¹³
4. The PSAP should be managed/supervised by an individual possessing one or more of the following advanced certifications: NENA Center Manager Certification Program (“CMCP”), NENA Emergency Number Professional (“ENP”), APCO Registered Public-Safety Leader (“RPL”) or APCO Certified Public-Safety Executive (“CPE”); and that manager/supervisor shall be provided funds by the PSAP to support membership in industry associations and ongoing training and education appropriate for their position and responsibilities.¹⁴
5. The PSAP should report to AGRC each error it identifies in the routing of 911 calls within 14 calendar days.¹⁵

Endnotes

- ¹ UCA recognizes that the language of Utah Code Ann. §63H-7a-103(8)(b) includes as a definition of a PSAP that it has the staff necessary to receive an emergency communication. This minimum standard is not intended to relate to that definition and UCA does not interpret the statute in such a fashion that a PSAP is disqualified as a PSAP if it does not meet this minimum standard.
- ² NENA and Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (2015). Standard for the Establishment of a Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement Program for Public Safety Answering Points (Publication No. 1.107.1.2015). Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/4h873dft> NENA Minimum Training Standards.
- ³ NENA and Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (2015). Standard for the Establishment of a Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement Program for Public Safety Answering Points (Publication No. 1.107.1.2015). Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/4h873dft>; NENA Minimum Training Standards.
- ⁴ APCO. (2017). Core Competencies and Minimum Training Standards for Public Safety Communications Training Officer. (APCO ANS 3.101.3-2017). Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/49f8aene>
- ⁵ APCO. (2018). Core Competencies and Minimum Training Standards for Public Safety Communications Instructor (APCO ANS 3.108.2-2018). Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/4ay3b82n>
- ⁶ APCO. (2015). Minimum Training Standards for Public Safety Telecommunicators (Publication No. 3.103.2.2015). Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/pezh4jj4> .
- ⁷ Utah Code Ann. §76-6-501, *et seq.*; Utah Code Ann. §76-8-5.
- ⁸ NFPA. (2019). NFPA 1221: Standard for the Installation, Maintenance and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems. Retrieved from: <https://tinyurl.com/3zt2xksw>; National Emergency Number Association. NENA Call Answering Standard/Model Recommendation (NENA-STA-020.1--2020). Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/jhmjbj8n>
- ⁹ NENA Call Answering Standard/Model Recommendation (NENASTA-020.1-2020). Retrieved from: <https://tinyurl.com/jhmjbj8n>
- ¹⁰ NENA. (2018). NENA Communications Center/PSAP Disaster and Contingency Plans Model Recommendation (NENA-INF-017.3-2018). Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/emf4akk3>.
- ¹¹ NENA PSAP Operations Committee, Text Message Working Group. (2013). NENA Information Document for Handling Text-to-9-1-1 in the PSAP (Publication No. NENA-INF-007.1-2013). Retrieved from: <https://tinyurl.com/5d3phzs9> ; NFPA. (2019). NFPA 1221: Standard for the Installation, Maintenance and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems. Retrieved from: <https://tinyurl.com/3zt2xksw>.
- ¹² NENA PSAP Operations Committee, 9-1-1 Acute/Traumatic and Chronic Stress Working Group. (2013). NENA Standard on 9-1-1 Acute/Traumatic and Chronic Stress Management (Publication No. NENA-STA- 002.1-2013). (2013, August 05). Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/ppjehhp>.
- ¹³ NENA. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/2ewz88b4>
- ¹⁴ NENA. (n.d.). Training & Certification. Retrieved from: <https://tinyurl.com/3a36ark4>, <https://tinyurl.com/2mpc7nn2> , <https://tinyurl.com/52whnzjt>, <https://tinyurl.com/udjvft5t> ; APCO. (2017). Core Competencies and Minimum Training Standards for Public Safety communications Supervisor. (APCO ANS 3.102.2-2017). Retrieved from: <https://tinyurl.com/3w6vhzzz>.
- ¹⁵ NENA Data Management Committee, Provisioning & Maintenance of GIS Data to ECRF/LVFs Working Group. (2017). NENA Standards for the Provisioning and Maintenance of GIS DATA to ECRFs and LVFs (NENA-STA-005.1.1-2017). Retrieved from <https://tinyurl.com/refu86sn> .