



Wireless E911 Location Accuracy Standards

**Oral Statement of
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Good morning, Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). I am Fire Chief Keith Bryant of the Oklahoma City Fire Department, and President and Chairman of the Board of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). The IAFC represents approximately 11,000 leaders of the nation's fire, rescue and emergency medical services. I thank you for the opportunity to briefly discuss the importance of accurate 9-1-1 location information.

Over the years, the American public has come to expect that they will have reliable 9-1-1 service. When citizens call 9-1-1, they usually are in a moment of great peril and require emergency assistance from their local fire and emergency service or local law enforcement agency.

The growth of new technology has created new challenges for the field of emergency response. One particular problem is that it is difficult for first responders to determine the location of a wireless 911 caller within a multi-level building.

This is an important problem, because more than 70 percent of 911 calls today are from callers using wireless devices. Of these calls, 64 percent of these calls are made from indoors.

Unfortunately, there are no standards today for indoor location accuracy. So, 911 operators must spend critical time trying to determine the location of the caller before they can dispatch aid. In addition, the arriving emergency responders may have to spend crucial minutes locating a person in need of aid, when they arrive on scene.

In the fire and emergency service, time is a critical component. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a career fire department is expected arrive for a full first alarm response within 8 minutes of being dispatched for 90% of all fire calls. In the field of EMS, it is important to arrive at the patient's location and transport him or her to emergency care at the hospital within the "Golden Hour." Every minute spent searching a building for the location of a fire or patient can affect the eventual outcome of the response.

This problem will become more urgent as more Americans rely upon wireless devices as a replacement to traditional landline coverage. Already some estimates are that 40% of Americans rely solely on wireless devices. As this trend continues, it will be important for first responders to receive accurate information about the location of wireless 9-1-1 callers.

While the FCC has previously set standards for outdoor wireless calls, today you will consider draft standards for indoor wireless calls. We applaud the FCC's decision to address this issue.