



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

A calm, reassuring voice can provide a degree of peace in the most trying of circumstances. To this end, dedicated men and women throughout the nation promote public safety by answering calls for help in the most literal sense possible. On a daily basis, hundreds of thousands of Americans in distress dial 9-1-1, and in their hour of need, public safety telecommunicators connect them with police officers, firefighters, and medical personnel. In such crises as arson, burglary, car collisions, or damaged public utilities, swift response can make the difference between life and death, and public safety telecommunicators therefore play a significant role in both emergency management and our society at large.

This critical occupation comprises 9-1-1 operators, poison control programs, dispatchers, and other communications specialists, and they are, in many instances, the *first* first responders. Public safety telecommunicators are indeed unsung heroes, and they leverage analytical ability and communication skill in service to the greater good. With the utmost speed and accuracy, they gather necessary information and dispatch the appropriate aid. They are called upon in the face of trauma and tragedy, but public safety telecommunicators maintain a composed, professional demeanor. By so doing, they pave the way for the best possible outcomes.

Every moment of every day, thousands of telecommunicators stand at the ready to protect and serve their fellow man, and they are a crucial element of our multifaceted public safety apparatus. Thanks to scientific and industrial progress and collaboration between the public and private sectors, we now have a robust, sophisticated public safety infrastructure that ensures reliable access to emergency telecommunications services.

To meet our people's ever-evolving needs and to enhance public safety, the Commission on State Emergency Communications supports telecommunicators, provides ongoing education, and sets industry-wide professional standards. Moreover, the commission leads our people toward an even more secure tomorrow by building Next Generation 9-1-1, an innovative, interconnected, and interoperable system-of-systems.

Each year, a week in April is set aside to shed light on public safety telecommunicators and to celebrate their many contributions and achievements. At a moment's notice, these men and women can connect our loved ones to life-saving resources, and as such, we owe them a considerable debt of gratitude.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to educate themselves about the dire needs that public safety telecommunicators meet and to express sincere appreciation. When it matters most, these committed professionals prove that the Lone Star State's greatest asset lies within the people who call it home.


Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim April 9–15, 2023 to be

Public Safety Telecommunicators Week



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature, this the
23rd day of March, 2023.


Governor of Texas