

MEDIA ALERT:

For more information:
Sonya Lopez-Clauson
Greater Harris County 9-1-1, PIO
713-806-9495



Greater Harris County
9-1-1 Emergency Network

GREATER HARRIS COUNTY 9-1-1 EMERGENCY NETWORK RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR FOR 9-1-1 PROGRAM

WHAT: Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Network (GHC 9-1-1) will be presented with the national **Outstanding 9-1-1 Program Award** at the 8th Annual 9-1-1 Honors Gala. The E9-1-1 Institute, in conjunction with the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), the National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators (NASNA), the 9-1-1 Industry Alliance ("9IA"), National Academies of Emergency Dispatch (NAED), 9-1-1 For Kids, and the Congressional NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus, will recognize GHC 9-1-1 for their accomplishments.

The Outstanding 9-1-1 Program Award recognizes an innovative and forward looking plan to enhance the future viability of public safety emergency communications systems. The GHC 9-1-1 staff and chairman of the board will be joined by Congressman Gene Green at the 9-1-1 Honors Event.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 29, 2011
7:00 P.M.

WHERE: 8th Annual "9-1-1 Honors Gala" in Washington D.C at the Reagan Center

WHY: GHC 9-1-1 is an excellent example of an approach to efficient, reliable public safety services with an eye to calltaker training, professional growth, technological development, and community involvement. For nearly 30 years, GHC 9-1-1 has helped to lead the way in mission-critical, emergency communications technology. They have demonstrated that balancing operations and technology is the key to preparing for future technologies. This is evident with the following examples of their most recent accomplishments:

- The recently completed headquarters named the Tom Bass Building is a Silver LEED Certified facility that houses all of its 9-1-1 systems including its own Network Operations Center (NOC) and a self-managed in-house database providing greater control and ability to process data better.
- GHC 9-1-1 has implemented and upgraded its Internet Protocol (IP) network infrastructure to include diverse wireless and wireline paths for optimal redundancy in preparation for future applications for Next Generation communications technology.
- GHC 9-1-1 has demonstrated a deep commitment to public education and 9-1-1 call center training at the local, state, and national levels.

"I am proud to have had a part in the creation of this award winning 9-1-1 organization which has set a standard of excellence for 9-1-1 nationwide. The citizens of Harris and Fort Bend Counties can be confident knowing their 9-1-1 service is one of the best in the nation and continues to make advances towards improving emergency communications technology," **Congressman Gene Green.**

About the E9-1-1 Institute: The E9-1-1 Institute is a non-profit organization which shares the mission of the Congressional NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus to assist in promoting public education on E9-1-1 and emergency communications issues. The E9-1-1 Institute provides informational support to members of the Congressional Caucus as they pursue their mission of improving 9-1-1 emergency communications. Find out more at www.e911institute.org

About Greater Harris County 9-1-1: Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Network (GHC 9-1-1) has set a standard of excellence for 9-1-1 nationwide. GHC 9-1-1 is the largest 9-1-1 system in Texas, providing the 9-1-1 infrastructure for nearly 5 million (20% of Texas) residents, 49 cities and two counties: Harris and Fort Bend. There are over 41 call centers and over 1,200 call takers within the GHC 9-1-1 territory.

-END-