



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State 9-1-1 Awards to Recognize Exceptional 9-1-1 Professionals & 10-Year Old Kid Hero

Houston, TX – May 19, 2013 – Public safety communications takes center stage this week with a focus on Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) services. There will be 9-1-1 industry experts from across the state of Texas meeting for their annual conference in Houston. This three day conference will focus on new technologies like texting to 9-1-1, smartphone applications, radio communications and management of 9-1-1 dispatch centers.

On May 21st, 9-1-1 call takers and dispatchers from around the state will be recognized for the vital contribution they make to the safety and well-being of our citizens. The awards presentations will take place at the Tuesday night gala being held at the joint conference of the Texas state chapters of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials and the National Emergency Number Association.

Awards Banquet: May 21, 2013 (Media Arrival – 5:00 p.m.)
Time: 6:00 – 8:00pm
Conference Dates: May 19 – 22, 2013
Place: Hyatt Regency Houston, 1200 Louisiana Street, Houston, TX, 77002

9-1-1 Award Recipients:

- **9-1-1 Team of the Year** – 9-1-1 call takers Rhonda Darrow, Kerri Cook and Danielle Grunden of **League City Police Department** will be recognized for exemplary professionalism and teamwork in the field of public safety emergency communications.
- **Kid Hero of the Year** – Trinity Dudek, 10 years of age, of **Collin County, Texas** for recognizing that her grandfather was in diabetic shock and dialed 9-1-1. Trinity administered aid to her grandfather until responders arrived.
- **Telecommunicator of the Year** – Dustie Brown, of the **City of Carrollton**, handled a 9-1-1 call from a woman who had walked in her home while it was burglarized and was shot and wounded. Dustie was able to keep her on the phone while obtaining critical information for responders. Dustie will meet her 9-1-1 call at the awards banquet who will present her with her award.
- **Telecommunicator of the Year** – Cindy Moorehead of the **Department of Public Safety, DFW Airport**, assisted a 9-1-1 dispatch center in St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. Cindy helped 9-1-1 dispatchers by pitching in and answering calls from an overwhelmed community after being devastated by Hurricane Issac.

More -

More information on this joint conference and awards can be found on the organizations' respective webpages:

- Association of Public Safety Communications Officials – Texas Chapter – www.txapco.org
- National Emergency Number Association – Texas Chapter – www.texasnena.org

Texas APCO – Texas APCO is the Texas Chapter of Associated Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) -- the world's largest organization of public safety communications professionals. It serves the needs of public safety communications practitioners worldwide - and the welfare of the general public as a whole - by providing complete expertise, professional development, technical assistance, advocacy and outreach. The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) is an international leader committed to providing complete public safety communications expertise, professional development, technical assistance, advocacy and outreach to benefit our members and the public. APCO International commits to strengthen our communities by empowering and educating public safety communications professionals.

Texas NENA - Texas NENA is the Texas chapter of the National Emergency Number Association. The organization seeks to do the following: 1) Foster the development, availability and implementation of the universal emergency telephone number, 9-1-1, common to all areas of the State of Texas through research. 2) Aid and assist in the timely collection and dissemination of information relating to the 9-1-1 emergency.

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