



Nevada Highway Patrol

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Media Release

This Week is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 13 – 19, 2014

If you have ever wondered who a law enforcement officer, fireman, or EMT are talking to on the other end of the radio, it is safe to say it is their work life line providing information for first responders 24 hours a day seven days a week. These men and women on the other end of the radio are the people who help the first responders in their everyday work and especially in their time of need. When situations go bad they are the ones who are making sure we have backup with lights and sirens coming to your aid.

The Dispatcher is always the unseen hero the keepers of our “Brother or Sisters”. They are the first people we talk to in our patrol vehicle to start the shift and last person we say goodnight too when we get home and end the shift. You always see a police officer, fireman or any other first responder on a daily basis, but you may never see a Telecommunicator doing his or her job as it relates to helping the first responder. Our job would be impossible and much more dangerous without our “Dispatcher”. They are truly the life line between us and what we are responding to.

Each year, the second **full** week of April is dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators. What was first conceived by Patricia Anderson of the Contra Costa County (Calif.) Sheriff's Office in 1981 was observed only at that agency for three years. Members of the Virginia and North Carolina chapters of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) became involved in the mid-1980s. By the early 1990s, the national APCO organization convinced Congress of the need for a formal proclamation. Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) introduced what became H.J. Res. 284 to create "National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week." According to Congressional procedure, it was introduced twice more in 1993 and 1994, and then became permanent, without the need for yearly introduction.

The official name of the week when originally introduced in Congress in 1991 was "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week." In the intervening years, it has become known by several other names, including "National Public-Safety Telecommunications Week" and "International Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week." The Congressional resolution also stated there were more than "500,000 telecommunications specialists.

The State of Nevada has been recognizing our Telecommunicators (Dispatchers) since the mid 1990's. In the work that first responders do daily you may never know if a Telecommunicator will be recognized for their part in saving a life or talking to a person who is have the worst day of their lives and still being that friendly calm voice on the other end of that "911" call until help arrives.

This is their week to be recognized. If you know a Telecommunicator (Dispatcher) thank them for the job that they do in helping to protect you and your community.

THANK YOU "**DISPATCHERS**".

