



The APCO-NENA-Carrier Roadmap to Improve 9-1-1 Location Accuracy: Just the Facts

The APCO-NENA-Carrier Roadmap is the only comprehensive, forward-looking, and achievable plan that sets public safety on a long-term course to technology-neutral, effective, and sustainable improvements in 9-1-1 location accuracy. APCO has developed this fact sheet to make sure that all discussions about improving location accuracy are firmly rooted in the facts.

FACT: APCO worked collaboratively with NENA and the carriers to ensure the Roadmap results in substantial gains for location accuracy.

FACT: Comparing the Roadmap and FCC performance benchmarks is misleading due to two prominent, qualitative differences:

First, the Roadmap focuses on achieving the gold standard of 9-1-1 indoor location – a dispatchable location (meaning the actual room, apartment, office, etc.) – and includes aggressive commitments to achieve the required handset and network changes, standards, and secure database.

Second, the Roadmap requires the carriers to collect and report on live 9-1-1 call data for the first time. This will show how each location technology – including dispatchable location technologies designed for indoors – is performing for actual 9-1-1 calls, which provides a novel and transparent way for public safety to evaluate the carriers' performance.

FACT: There is no near term solution to the indoor location accuracy problem. All proposals, including those put forth by the FCC and the location vendors, depend upon new handsets and significant network deployments. And achieving a dispatchable location, as opposed to incremental improvements, requires new thinking.

FACT: The Roadmap places public safety on the same path of technologies that are providing commercial location based services: the hundreds of millions Wi-Fi access points and Bluetooth sensors already out in the public domain, and future generations of wireless industry technologies.

FACT: The Roadmap permits the use of any location technology – provided it is proven effective and useful to PSAPs and first responders in a new open, transparent, technology-neutral, and vendor-neutral test bed that is subject to real-world conditions.

FACT: The Roadmap opens the door for diverse and competitive solutions. Proprietary, single-source solutions that have been offered depend on significant financing, new handsets, vast network deployments, and access to every base elevation and floor plan of every building in the United States.

FACT: A dispatchable location is far better than a “z-axis” solution which at best may provide the floor level. However, in the first three years, the Roadmap takes steps to make z-axis technologies ready for deployment if public safety deems them useful.

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