



2018 National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

This week, April 8th through 14th, the Virginia Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (VA APCO) and its over 1200 members celebrate National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW). Created in 1981 to honor public safety telecommunicators (PSTs) across the country, NPSTW is a time to highlight the critical, life-saving work PSTs do 24x7x365.

In emergency communications centers across the Commonwealth, Virginia's PSTs answer 9-1-1 calls from those in need. They provide life-saving medical and CPR instruction, walk families through childbirth, and calm callers in dangerous, life-threatening situations.

Telecommunicators manage and coordinate police, fire, and emergency medical service responses, often during critical incidents, including active shooters, fires, and multi-vehicle collisions. Whether on the phone with callers or on the radio with field units, telecommunicators are the calm during every storm.

The sacrifices made by PSTs and their families frequently go unnoticed. Please take time this week to see, hear, acknowledge, and celebrate Virginia's public safety telecommunicators, truly the first of the first responders.

On behalf of the Virginia APCO's Board of Directors, *thank you* to Virginia's telecommunicators for the important work they do every day and night.

Learn more and help 9-1-1 celebrate at www.npstw.org.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gabe Elias'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Gabe Elias

President, Virginia APCO