
BUREAU OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS



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NEWS RELEASE

9-1-1 Emergency Number Day

People in all facets of the 9-1-1 industry and beyond have observed September 11 – which just happens to be 9/11 – as 9-1-1 Emergency Number Day ever since President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation in 1987 making September 11 “9-1-1 Emergency Number Day.” That proclamation recognized the importance of 9-1-1 and its ability to help save more lives and increase the public’s confidence in local emergency response systems.

Dispatching is more than just a job; it is a calling. Many dispatchers in Portland have made a career, a life in fact, of providing service. Dispatchers, here and across the country, help people on the absolute worst day of their lives. Rain or shine, day or night, holiday or not, there are dispatchers on-duty.

Dispatchers work in stressful and nearly impossible situations. They help people give birth, stop the bleeding, open airways, help keep them safe until the police can arrive, get them out of burning structures, and help them find resolution to problems and crime.

The Bureau of Emergency Communications (BOEC) handles more than 900,000 emergency and non-emergency calls each year. Each BOEC Dispatcher handles, on average, about 9,000 calls per year. That’s 9,000 opportunities to help someone, 9,000 chances to make a difference and 9,000 lives that dispatcher can affect.

9-1-1 Emergency Number Day is an opportunity for a grateful community to recognize the tremendous contributions our 9-1-1 dispatchers add to our quality of life each and every day. Take a moment to recognize 9-1-1 dispatchers throughout the metropolitan area who provide life-saving services to the community on a daily basis.

The President Proclamation 5696 of August 26, 1987
August 31, 1987

By the President of the United States of America A Proclamation

Protecting the lives and property of citizens is one of government's fundamental responsibilities. In times of emergency, citizens must have a quick and easy way to summon police and other rescue services. The 9-1-1 emergency telephone number fulfills this need and proves its value hundreds of times every day throughout our country.

In 1968, 9-1-1 was designated the universal emergency telephone number in North America. Today we can see with satisfaction that much has been done to implement this system. Thousands of municipalities have established the 9-1-1 telephone system, making it possible to save more lives and to increase the public's confidence in local emergency response systems. The 9-1-1 system has enabled communities to respond to a greater number of emergency calls with added efficiency and lower costs to the public.

State and local governments have made a commitment to implement the 9-1-1 telephone system across our Nation as soon as possible. Some States have mandated that the system be operational by a certain date, while others have made much progress on a voluntary basis. These efforts to enhance the welfare and safety of our citizens deserve public recognition and every commendation.

The Congress, by Public Law 99-448, has designated September 11, 1987, as "9-1-1 Emergency Number Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this occasion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 11, 1987, as 9-1-1 Emergency Number Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twelfth.

Ronald Reagan