



NEWS RELEASE

TARRANT COUNTY 9-1-1 DISTRICT

Contact: Alisa Simmons
Mgr. of Public Marketing
(817) 988-2431 wireless
(817) 820-1189 desk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congressman to Tour Arlington 9-1-1 Center Press Conference to occur at 11a.m. Friday, October 22

Congressman Joe Barton is scheduled to tour Arlington Dispatch Services on Friday, October 22.

The tour will immediately follow a news conference, which will occur at 11 a.m. at the Ott Cribbs Public Safety Building, 620 W. Division St. in Arlington.

Rep. Barton is the current Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. This committee is working on several issues related to public safety communications.

A number of issues are being considered by Congress that will directly influence the ability of 9-1-1 centers and public safety service providers to meet the safety needs of the citizens they serve. Funding for critical infrastructures and access to scarce resources such as radio spectrum are among the crucial issues that are currently being considered by Congress.

"The issues currently before Congress are complex," said Bill Munn executive director of the Tarrant County 9-1-1 District and past president of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA). "We commend efforts like Representative Barton has undertaken to visit our 9-1-1 centers and gain an understanding of the direct impact of these issues on our citizens."

"9-1-1 centers and first responders across our nation face unparallel challenges following 9/11," said Wanda McCarley, operations manager for the Tarrant County 9-1-1 District and acting president-elect of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials International (APCO).

The media is invited to attend the press conference, which will be followed by Congressman Barton's walk-through of Arlington's nationally recognized, state-of-the-art 9-1-1 communications facility.

Arlington Dispatch Services Division is the second public safety communications agency in Texas to earn national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. It is among approximately 30 communications centers in the nation to successfully complete the accreditation program.

What: Congressman Joe Barton Tour of Arlington 9-1-1
Date: October 22, 2004
Time: 11 a.m.
Location: Arlington Dispatch Services
620 West Division Street
Ott Cribbs Public Safety Facility
EOC Conference Room

###