



## **FCC Proposes Action to Help First Responders Better Locate Wireless 911 Callers**

*Proposals Would Improve the Location Information Transmitted with Emergency Calls Made from Multistory Buildings*

WASHINGTON, March 27, 2025—The Federal Communications Commission today proposed improvements to its wireless 911 location accuracy rules, which reduce emergency response times and ultimately save lives by enabling 911 call centers and first responders to quickly identify the location of people who call 911 from wireless phones.

The Commission requires wireless service providers to deliver location information with all 911 calls that identifies the caller's horizontal and vertical location within specified accuracy thresholds, as validated in an independent test bed. Vertical location information is particularly useful in identifying the location of wireless 911 callers inside multistory buildings. While these rules have led to significant improvements in locating 911 callers, public safety authorities have voiced concerns about the precision and format of the vertical location information they receive and the adequacy of the test bed process.

In a Sixth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking adopted today, the Commission is proposing measures to address these concerns while balancing the needs of industry and promoting technical flexibility and innovation, including seeking comment on:

- Requiring wireless providers to deliver vertical location information to 911 call centers measured in Height Above Ground Level (AGL), instead of Height Above Ellipsoid (HAE), to provide more actionable information to first responders.
- Requiring that the industry test bed validate the performance of vertical location technologies in dense urban, urban, suburban, and rural environments rather than the current approach that allows aggregating or averaging performance across environments.
- Providing non-nationwide wireless providers and certain major public safety organizations expanded access to test bed data, and allowing these public safety organizations to challenge test bed validations.
- Ways to increase the number of wireless 911 calls that convey dispatchable location information with the call.
- Improving horizontal location accuracy for wireless 911 calls and location accuracy for text-to-911.

Action by the Commission March 27, 2025 by Sixth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 25-22). Chairman Carr, Commissioners Starks, Simington, and Gomez approving. Chairman Carr issuing a separate statement.

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**Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov / (202) 418-0500  
@FCC / www.fcc.gov**

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*