

April 7, 2011

NATCHITOCHEES PARISH 9-1-1 SPONSORS FOUR LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL AT ANNUAL TRAINING.

Four emergency call-takers/dispatchers from the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Department and the Natchitoches Police Department attended the 2011 APCO/NENA Communications Training Symposium, which was held in Lafayette, La. on April 4-6, 2011.

Each year the Louisiana Chapters of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, International, Inc. (APCO) and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) host this communications training symposium. . The event brings together public safety communications personnel from all across the state for three days of training and new product demonstrations. This year's event marked the largest ever with over 200 public safety communications professionals in attendance. This year's training symposium was scheduled in conjunction with next week, April 10 – 16th which is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, which has been designated by the United States Congress as the second week in April of each year, as a way in which we can honor and recognize the important and critical role that these public safety communications professional play in emergency services.

Willis Carter, 9-1-1 Director for Natchitoches Parish said ...*"Although these individuals are not employees of Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1, as emergency call-takers and dispatchers, who operate our two 9-1-1 centers, they play a critical role in the success of our 9-1-1 system here in Natchitoches Parish. These folks are most often our first contact with help during our time of emergency. Their actions can mean the difference in life or death. As we offer our appreciation to these dedicated professionals during National Telecommunicator week for the work that that they do, we are also pleased to support their training, which can only enhance the value of their work for the community."*