

# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Media Contact:

#### **Natchitoches Parish Communications District**

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY ASSOCIATION FUNDS 9-1-1 TRAINING**

**New Orleans, La., January 12, 2012** – During their quarterly meeting in New Orleans on January 12, 2012, the Louisiana Chapter of APCO International voted unanimously to allocate \$7,000 to training which will benefit 9-1-1 dispatch personnel from across Louisiana. Jack

Varnado, president of the Louisiana Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) said: “this training is being offered to our Louisiana Chapter members at no charge as a service to our membership in recognition of the critical role that our 9-1-1 centers play in public safety. Having well trained call takers and dispatchers operating our 9-1-1 centers is absolutely necessary in order to protect our citizens.”

The course, APCO’s 40-hour Telecommunicator Instructor Course, will provide training certification for communications center trainers at local levels who after completion of the training will be qualified to teach the APCO Basic Telecommunicator Course in their local dispatch centers. Natchitoches is being considered as a potential site for the training, which is tentatively scheduled for June 4-8, 2012.

Willis Carter, 9-1-1 Director for Natchitoches Parish, applauded the APCO Chapter for their action and is excited about the potential for Natchitoches to host the training session. “Not only does this offer a tremendous opportunity for training for our two 9-1-1 dispatch centers, but it also provides a great opportunity to welcome more visitors to Natchitoches.”

APCO International is the world's largest organization of public safety communications professionals. It serves the needs of public safety communications practitioners worldwide — and the welfare of the general public as a whole — by providing complete expertise, professional development, technical assistance, advocacy and outreach.

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#### **About the Natchitoches Parish Communications District (Natchitoches 9-1-1)**

*Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 is committed to providing fast, efficient and effective access to emergency public safety services for all the citizens and visitors to Natchitoches Parish. Since 1988 the “District” has served in a pivotal role ensuring the safety of residents and visitors to Natchitoches Parish by providing the support services, which connects the citizens experiencing emergencies with emergency services via the use of one, easy to remember and simple to use 3-digit number, 9-1-1. The Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 District provides the equipment and systems necessary to receive 9-1-1 calls from the nearly 40,000 residents of the parish, as well as the ever-increasing numbers of visitors to the area. We are proud to serve as “Natchitoches Parish’s Gateway to Public Safety Services”.*

Find out more at [www.natchitoches911.org](http://www.natchitoches911.org).