



**PUBLIC SAFETY GRADE  
COMMUNICATIONS  
DEFINED BY INDUSTRY EXPERTS**

## **The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) has defined Public Safety Mission Critical Communications as follows:**

**Direct or Talk Around** Communications provides public safety with the ability to communicate unit to unit with no network whether they are out of range or the network is damaged.

Also known as **simplex**, this method allows responders to communicate within buildings/basements where signal may not reach or where they are entirely out of range of any signal.

**Push to Talk (PTT)** In our world today PTT allows responders to selectively and sequentially transmit messages to one another, either on a one-to-one or one-to-many basis. A responder wishes to talk on a channel, listens that the channel is clear, presses a button, and speaks to whomever he/she wishes. Upon button release, the channel is cleared for a response.

**Full Duplex** means simultaneous bi-directional communications amongst two or more responders at the same time. This allows multiple users to talk and listen at the same time, meaning that they can talk over one another. Useful if there is a high priority message that needs to get out to many quickly.

**Group Call** provides one to many communication between members of a talk group. This component is of **vital importance** to the public safety community.

**Talker Identification** provides the ability to see who is talking at any given time on one to one calls and on one to many calls.

**Emergency Alerting** indicates when a user has encountered a life-threatening condition and requires access to the system **NOW**, the person that pressed is given priority.

**Audio Quality** is possibly the most vital component for public safety grade communications. The listener **MUST** be able to understand a transmission without repetition, and can identify the speaker, detect stress in the speaker's voice, and can hear background noises without interfering with the voice transmissions.

### ***In Addition to NPSTC's Definition***

All primary response disciplines operate as a team and need the ability to talk as one. The importance of this cannot be overstated.