



## **Routt County Communications**

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### **Media Release**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST 911 CALL**

**Steamboat Springs, Colorado – February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018** – Routt County Communications today announced its recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first 9-1-1 call.

On February 16, 1968, Alabama Speaker of the House, Mr. Rankin Fite, made the first 9-1-1 call from the Haleyville City Hall. Until then, there was no centralized number for people to call in case of an emergency in the United States. From that small beginning, 9-1-1 technology has become more sophisticated in response to consumer expectations. Each advancement has improved our nation's ability to get better, more reliable information to first responders so they can do their job of saving lives and protecting property.

Routt County recognizes the challenges associated with keeping up with the pace of technology advances. Last year, Routt County implemented text to 9-1-1. Although much of the country still does not have this ability, we recognize its importance and the publics' expectation for access to emergency services. Next Generation (NG) 9-1-1 technology will allow a citizen to send a picture or video clip to an Emergency Communications Center in the future. However, a significant amount of infrastructure and networks must be updated before this capability will be available.

We would like to remind the public that 9-1-1 is intended for emergencies only. We prefer a voice call over the use of text to 9-1-1, because it is much faster for us to process those calls and send help. However, text to 9-1-1 is available if it is unsafe to make a voice call. Striving to maintain a safe community – call if you can, text if you can't.

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