

The California Public-Safety Radio Association

The California Public-Safety Radio Association (CPRA) was originally founded in 1935 as a statewide group called the California Police Radio Association. Because California is so large, it was decided in 1941 to divide the state between North and South. A line was drawn from east to west through Fresno. The group to the north of Fresno was known as the Northern California Police Communication Officers. This group is now known as the Northern California Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials or NAPCO. The area south of Fresno was at first known as the California Police Communication Officers but shortly afterward the Southern California group changed the name back to the original California Police Radio Association (CPRA). On April 1, 1945, CPRA became a chartered chapter of the then Associated Police Communications Officers (APCO). In 1953 the CPRA Chapter, in order to better reflect its membership, changed its name to the California Public-Safety Radio Association. In 1956, the Association followed suit and changed its name to the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials. Since it was a separate organization when it joined APCO in 1945, the name CPRA was allowed to be grandfathered. All other present and future chapters are now required to use APCO in their names.

Today, the CPRA Chapter is made up of over 550 local public safety professionals from Police, Fire, EMS, 9-1-1, State/Local Government, Tribal, Military, Forestry, Highway and Conservation services who volunteer their time and expertise for the betterment of public safety communications. It represents more than 250 Public Safety agencies and 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) who serve over 22 million people throughout Southern California. Our Corporate members, who provide products or services to public safety, also support and participate in many of the activities of the Chapter. The CPRA Chapter of APCO meets monthly in various Southern California locations.

The CPRA Chapter of APCO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which provides its members with Operational and Technical Training, discusses the current critical issues affecting Public Safety and 9-1-1 PSAPs, disseminates the latest information on emerging technologies including Next Gen 9-1-1 and FirstNet, reports on FCC Regulatory notices and actions, conducts monthly Frequency Coordination meetings, advises on the current activities at APCO International, and provides an opportunity for networking with peers. Additionally, CPRA holds special events throughout the year, including: an annual Telecommunicators Week Awards Banquet in April that recognizes the top 9-1-1 practitioners in Southern California; an annual Engineering & Technologist Awards Program in May that recognizes excellence in technical support; and an annual Vendor Exposition event in October that displays the latest equipment and services for Public Safety.

