

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO HOLD WORKSHOP ON DIRECT ACCESS TO 9-1-1

LINCOLN – On Tuesday, June 30, 2015, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at Nebraska Innovation Campus Auditorium, University of Nebraska, 2021 Transformation Drive, Lincoln, Nebraska and is open to the public. The Nebraska Public Service Commission will hold a workshop to discuss the issue of direct access to 9-1-1 services from multi-line telephone systems (MLTS). The featured speaker will be Commissioner Ajit Pai of the Federal Communications Commission. The workshop will be dedicated to increasing awareness and discussing the status of the issue within Nebraska. The workshop will conclude with an opportunity for questions of the speaker panel.

Dialing 9-1-1 has long been known as the way to reach emergency services. However, many multi-line telephone systems require individuals to dial “9” or other additional number to gain access to an outside line. The tragic death of a woman in a Texas hotel has prompted a national awareness campaign led by Commissioner Pai in order to fix the problem. The Nebraska Public Service Commission is in the process of investigating this issue in the state to determine what can be done to enable anyone needing emergency services to reach emergency personnel without undue delay.

Nebraska Public Service Commissioner Crystal Rhoades said, “People are trained to dial 9-1-1 for help, and we don’t want to lose lives because we’ve made it easier to dial a co-worker but harder to reach emergency services. Making sure we have direct dial 9-1-1 is critical to dispatching help when it’s needed.”

The agenda will be posted on the Commission’s website: www.psc.nebraska.gov. A telephone (listen-only) bridge will be made available for the convenience of persons who cannot attend the workshop in person. The call-in number is (888) 820-1398, attendee code 5582059#.

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