



APCO - NENA  
The 9-1-1 Association

# Public Safety Employee Retirement Eligibility for Public Safety Telecommunicators

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Critical Public Safety Job</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PST's deal with the same and similar levels of physical and mental stressors as their counterparts in law enforcement and fire response.</li> <li>• Hyper-vigilant environment. High degree of acute and cumulative stress having to go from call to call regardless of outcome with infrequent opportunity for stress relief following a traumatic event.</li> <li>• PST's provide guidance and scene safety information for police and fire responders as well as lifesaving pre-arrival instructions for medical calls including first aid and life-saving protocols.</li> <li>• Rapid decision making sometimes with little information and frequent life-impacting consequences.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Technology Advancements Bring Additional Unique Stressors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New technologies are developing allowing the public to communicate with 911 through several different platforms. PST's must be trained on these new technologies and be able to respond appropriately. No longer just one system handling a phone call.</li> <li>• Real time video &amp; images can be sent to 911 call centers allowing for a one- or two-way conversation with call takers allowing for real time scene situational awareness. PST's can now be brought visually to the scene which can cause additional traumatic stress.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Retirement System They Belong In</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not an answer to end burn-out. APCO has partnered with other agencies to work on improving work environments.</li> <li>• One of several tools to help with recruitment and retention. We believe that PSERS will help with recruitment and retention, but it is not the be all to end all.</li> <li>• 911 is its own Public Safety Arm</li> <li>• PST's recognized as First Responders in Washington State</li> <li>• PSTs are eligible for PTSD consideration. RCW 51.08.142 excludes mental conditions caused by stress from being classified as occupational disease. The same RCW specifically exempts firefighters, law enforcement officers and PSTs under certain circumstances from this exclusion.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Washington Wouldn't Be Alone</b></p> <p>Other states and jurisdictions have provided public safety retirement to PSTS</p> <p>2005 State of Wyoming, Law Enforcement Pension Plan</p> <p>2012 State of Arizona, Corrections Officers Retirement Plan</p> <p>2015 State of Utah, Public Safety Retirement Systems</p> <p>2021 Metropolitan Nashville &amp; Davidson County (TN), Fire and Police Service Pension Plan</p> <p>2022 State of Idaho, Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho</p> <hr/> <p>APCO International survey revealed improved retention when individuals are placed in a retirement system similar to other public safety responders.</p> <p>APCO International also identified 97% of police/fire/ems personnel <b>will</b> stay through retirement; inversely 97% of telecommunicators <b>will not</b> stay to retire.</p>

