

# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 Targets Need for Accurate Location Information**

**Natchitoches, LA., February 28, 2012**— The Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 Board of Commissioners today approved a major initiative aimed at improving emergency first responder's ability to quickly locate residents and visitors to Natchitoches Parish in times of emergency. NP911 PROJECT LOCATE will focus on; 1) making greater use of technology to assign 9-1-1 addresses in the Parish; 2) improving the way that 9-1-1 location data is processed when a call to 9-1-1 is made; and 3) focusing attention on the importance of residents and business owners properly displaying their addresses so that emergency responders can easily locate them. (<http://www.natchitoches911.org/forms/MarkYourAddress.pdf>).

Today's action authorizes work, which will lead to the development of a digitized map of Natchitoches Parish with centerline data containing information such as block numbers, road names, and physical address points for the over 18,000 parcels of land in Natchitoches Parish. When completed, this information can be used by 9-1-1 emergency call takers to assist them when processing requests for emergency services. According to Willis Carter, 9-1-1 Director for Natchitoches Parish, *"the location of an emergency is the one single most important piece of information necessary when processing a response to an emergency. Work to improve how emergency call takers identify the locations of callers has been underway since early 2011 and has been made possible through the corporation and assistance of the Natchitoches Parish Tax Assessor, as well as the City of Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Sheriff's Office, who operate the Parish's two Public Safety Answering Points"*. Geographic Technologies Group of Goldsboro, North Carolina is assisting the District in this effort. The first phase of the project will begin in early March 2012 and is expected to take approximately four months.

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### **About the Natchitoches Parish Communications District (Natchitoches 9-1-1)**

*Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 is committed to providing fast, efficient and effective access to emergency public safety services for all the citizens and visitors to Natchitoches Parish. Since 1988 the "District" has served in a pivotal role ensuring the safety of residents and visitors to Natchitoches Parish by providing the support services, which connects the citizens experiencing emergencies with emergency services via the use of one, easy to remember and simple to use 3-digit number, 9-1-1. The Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 District provides the equipment and systems necessary to receive 9-1-1 calls from the nearly 40,000 residents of the parish, as well as the ever-increasing numbers of visitors to the area. We are proud to serve as "Natchitoches Parish's Gateway to Public Safety Services".*

Find out more at [www.natchitoches911.org](http://www.natchitoches911.org).

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