

NEWS RELEASE

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Natchitoches Parish Communications District

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9-1-1 Communications District Announces Address Assignment Changes

Natchitoches, LA., August 27, 2013 — Changes to the address assignment process were unveiled during the August 27th regular meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Communication District Board of Commissioners. 9-1-1 Director Willis Carter reported to the commission that in preparation for the implementation of Phase II location services for wireless devices operating within Natchitoches parish, the Communications district has undertaken a complete overhaul of its addressing processes. The Communications District address coordination office is now taking advantage of state of the art technology recently acquired through Geographic Technologies Group, Inc. This newly completed system can provide public safety first responders with location information on over 16,000 discreet address points and locations throughout Natchitoches parish. This system, implemented at a cost of just under \$100,000, is part of the districts efforts to assist the parish's emergency first responders, and to enable data sharing with other user agencies.

In addition to adding new technology, the District has also modified the processes used to assign new addresses and to verify those addresses that already exist. In routine situations, individuals requesting new address assignments are now asked to complete an address "application". Upon completion of the application, the applicant is provided two "marker flags" to be used to indicate the location where the proposed driveway will intersect the public roadway, and the approximate "center point" of where any proposed structures will be placed on the property. The 9-1-1 address coordinator then performs a site visit during which staff obtains measurements used to determine the numerical address for the location, and they also collect GPS readings in order to pinpoint the exact latitude and longitude of the location. 9-1-1 staff also conducts a visual survey of the area noting the surrounding addresses to ensure the correct alignment of the new proposed address with those which already exist. At the conclusion of the addressing process, staff provides the applicant an affidavit of address assignment for their use in acquiring utility and other services.

Communications Commission Chairman, Larry Atteridge said: "Although it has been said before, I want to reiterate the critical importance of accurate location information during public safety emergency responses to a 9-1-1 call. These changes support the work that the district is undertaking to improve the addressing processes."

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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.