

Addressing: The Plan and the Methods

Before beginning to collect data about rural residents and assign new 9-1-1 addresses, a county should adopt an addressing plan. This plan should take into account matters such as:

- 1) The addressing method: block, grid, equal interval or a combination of all
- 2) Parity: Evens and Odds
- 3) Special addressing situations such as trailer parks, apartments, marinas, resort areas, areas with existing city-style addressing and addressed roads coming into the county from other counties
- 4) Road-naming or numbering

1: Addressing Method

Block addressing is best-suited to areas where lots are small and cannot be divided. Each block increments by 100 at every cross street, with odd and even numbers on opposite sides of the street and address numbers increasing by “2” or “4” for every lot.

Block addressing is usually used in incorporated areas, villages and subdivisions.

Grid addressing is best-suited to rural areas where roads follow section lines in a regular and predictable pattern. In this method, a rectangular or square grid is placed over the county with the grid origin usually at a corner. Range numbers are assigned to every line of the grid. The address is determined by drawing a line up (for homes on east/west roads) or over (for homes on north/south roads). Address numbers usually increment by 1000 between each grid line. The end result is a system that delivers large—often five digit—numbers for addresses and gives the emergency responder a relative idea of where in the county the emergency is, provided they first know if the road is runs primarily north-south or east-west.

Grid addressing is easiest to use with numbered roads and is most logical when the addresses between two numbered cross roads (CR 3600 and CR 3700) correspond to those cross roads. (For example, in a city, you would expect to find addresses of 100 – 199 between 1st St and 2nd St.)

Equal interval addressing has proven extremely favorable in E9-1-1 operations. In this method, addresses start at “1” and increase by a consistent interval, such as 1000 per mile.

The origin (low address end) of the road is where the road connects to the more major road, or closer to the town of origin, or closer to a central or primary city in the county, or to a primary direction (such as south or west). For example, if a county road runs between a state highway and another county road, the low numbers (origin) are at the state highway. If a county road runs north out of an incorporated town, the low numbers (origin) are closer to the town.

The primary advantage of equal interval addressing is that the address number on the road tells the responder exactly where on the road the address is located. The primary disadvantage is that it does not tell where in the county the road or address is located.

2: Parity (Even/Odd)

Parity varies from region to region and county to county, but should always be consistent. Postal regulations call for even addresses on the south or the east, though some areas prefer an evens on the left or evens on the right system.

Parity should be retained in already addressed areas or cities, even if it differs from the county plan.

3: Special addressing situations

Trailer Parks: Trailer parks with already-assigned lot or space numbers or designators can be given one complex addressed based on the primary entrance to the park. All lots will use this address along with a lot designator, such as 1054 CR 1430, Lot 7.

Trailer parks without assigned lot or space numbers should be assigned lot or space numbers by trailer park management.

Some trailer parks resemble subdivisions more than trailer parks. Block or interval addressing will be used in these cases.

Apartments/Condos Apartment buildings or complexes should retain already-assigned unit or apartment numbers. The complex can be given one address OR one address for each building, if each building faces a

named or numbered road. As in trailer parks, the address will consist of a complex or building address followed by a unit designator, such as 1555 Whispering Hills Dr Apt 4A

Senior Housing All attempts will be made to retain existing addressing in Senior Citizen housing, while adhering to the rules for apartments described above.

Resort Development: Block or interval addressing is preferred in resort subdivisions or lake developments. Lot numbering should not be used as evens and odds appear on the same side of the road and there is no logical progression of addresses.

Addressing in Surrounding Counties: Addressing on roads which enter the county and end within ½ mile should be retained, such that the neighboring county's address system, even if different from your county's, should be extended into your county for the sake of consistency. The interval may change. However, roads which begin a "1" at the border cannot not be extended, as negative address numbers are not allowed. Road naming on contiguous roads should be retained if possible.

For county line roads, addressing should match the addressing already in place on one side of the road.

Addressing in Cities Extending into County: If an interval addressing system is used, addressing on city roads which continue into the county should be continued. If E Taylor St ends at the 800 block, the first address on that road in the county (even if the name changes at the city limit) should be 901.

In grid addressed counties, grid addressing begins at the city limit, even though it does not fit with city block addressing.

On city/county roads (where one side of the road is city and one side is county), the county should match the city addressing already in place, even in grid-addressed counties.

Major Roads that Pass Through Cities: Cities often rename state or US roads within the city limits. State Hwy 75 may be "Main St" within a corporate limit. With interval addressing, account for the length of the road within the city, even if the road has a different name. Extending city addressing does NOT apply when roads enter the city then leave the city at another point.

If St Hwy 75 enters the city of Bloomington at address 4590 and has one mile or road within the city, the first address leaving the city should be 5590 (assuming 1000 addresses per mile).

4: Road Naming/Numbering

Naming vs. Numbering Road names are preferred for 9-1-1 as they are easier to remember than numbers, especially at times of high stress such as emergencies. Road numbers can sometimes be confused with the house address number by postal sorting machines. However, if a logical road numbering system exists in the county, it can be retained. If roads are to be named, the county should put in place a road naming implementation plan and should appoint a road naming committee to finalize road naming decisions.

Private Roads A private road is defined as a road with three or more residents or any road or drive with one or more residents or businesses that is $\frac{1}{4}$ mile long or longer.

Driveways which closely parallel main roads where all homes face the main road are not considered lanes. In these cases, the homes should be addressed from the front door location.

If county roads are numbered, private roads can be numbered using a system which corresponds to county road numbering.

If county roads are named, private roads should be named. The county may elect to have the road naming committee name private roads, or may allow citizens to name their own lanes. However, allowing residents to name their own lanes, while politically favorable, can significantly slow down the 9-1-1 implementation process.

Road names should not duplicate in a county, and must not duplicate within a zip code or an emergency response area.