



Navajo Nation 9-1-1 News

Dine' Bi' Keyah, Nahast'ei - T'aala'i - T'aala'i Bahane

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Government Services 9-1-1 Subcommittee



GSC Committee, Front, Ervin Keeswood, L-R, Roy Laugh-ter, Alberta Laughing, Danny Simpson, Charles Damon, and Orlanda Smith-Hodge

The Government Services 9-1-1 subcommittee has been meeting regularly to help remove barriers to the successful implementation of Rural Addressing and the Enhanced 9-1-1 System on the Navajo Nation. The subcommittee continues to receive reports from the E9-1-1 office on activities and challenges.

One major challenge the Nation faces is successfully establishing rural addressing within the

Navajo Nation government structure. Thus far, amendments to the Division of Community Development Master Plan of Operation have been initiated through the 164 Review Process to incorporate rural addressing language, responsibilities, and accountabilities into the Administrative, Local Governance Support Center, Navajo Department of Transportation, and Community Housing and Infrastructure. In addition, a separate Plan of Operation was developed for the Rural Addressing Authority.

The subcommittee has also requested legal assistance from Legislative Counsel to research what other avenues can be pursued to ensure that rural addressing is incorporated into the laws of the Navajo Nation. This would help ensure commitment to the success of the rural addressing roll out on the Navajo Nation by the Dine' and internal and external organizations. 🌻

When should you use 9-1-1?

- In an emergency situation only when immediate assistance is needed from police, fire or medical emergency personnel.
- A call to 9-1-1 should always be a call for HELP!!
- It is free to call 9-1-1 from a pay phone.

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NDOT was expected to fulfill. Installing and maintaining road name signs and posting addresses, and soliciting NDOT's cooperation is to help develop and facilitate implementing the necessary processes to make the initiative a success.

The sub-group was convened and a breakout session conducted during the June 26-27 the *Navajo Nation Enhanced 9-1-1 Task Force* meeting with the intent of bringing closure to establishing the guidelines and designing and implementing the processes necessary to procure, produce, install, and maintain road name signs and post addresses.

The sub group focused on the objectives to establish an action plan that included researching the signage materials and processes used by surrounding counties and jurisdictions to determine how to most effectively implement similar processes on the Navajo Nation.

As this article was being written, the research plan is to be conducted by interviewing knowledge resources from the counties and visiting their facilities where their road name signs are produced. From that research, sub group members will identify the material specifications and processes used. Then, all that research will be brought together for comparison and to discuss and determine what the recommendations will be for the

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Road Signage & Addressing Sub-Group

A *Road Signage & Addresses* sub-group was chartered as part of the *Rural Addressing* Work Group. The primary focus of the newly chartered sub-group was to identify and develop all the processes and details necessary to make the timely installation of road name signs and the posting of addresses initiative successful, which includes: 1) identifying the material specifications to be used in the production of road name signs and address plaques for the Navajo Nation, 2) developing a recommendation whether the road name signs should be produced internally vs. outsourced, 3) developing installation and maintenance guidelines, 4) developing the work order process to initiate the production of road name signs and address plaques, 5) preparing the necessary information to initiate and successfully complete the procurement cycle, and 6) verifying that the road name signs and address plaques are installed correctly.

Prior to the task force meeting, a dialogue



Ron Whinery, Consultant, identifying and developing the work order process for Road Signage & Addressing with Navajo area-wide Sub-group

was initiated with the Navajo Department of Transportation (NDOT) to establish a collaborative working relationship and coordinate the breakout session agenda. A transfer of knowledge previously developed was provided to help bring NDOT personnel up-to-speed. An explanation was also provided of the need for objectives of rural addressing, the role that

Utah Strip Rural Addressing

The original planning for rural addressing the "Utah Strip" was conducted during the August '07 task force meeting. The main impediment to maintaining the continuity of the rural addressing roll-out at that time was funding.

Subsequent to that meeting, the Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund has committed \$55,000. San Juan County has agreed to fund the remainder of the difference between the grant amount and the contract price.

San Juan County will enter into an agreement directly with Contact One to perform portions of the work. The Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC) will do the field portion of the work. Contact One will do the office portion of the work, develop the MSAG, and ALI database.

The MOU Agreement between the Navajo Nation, San Juan County, Utah, and the Utah AGRC has finished the first round of reviews and is being prepared for signatures and initiation of the Signature Approval Sheet (SAS – 164) review and signature process for approval by the applicable standing committees.

Parts of several chapters from West-



Orlanda Smith-Hodge addressing LRAC members

ern and Northern Agency make up the "Utah Strip." They include: Navajo Mountain, Shonto, Oljato, and Dennehotso from Western Agency, Mexican Water, Red Mesa, and all of Aneth from the Northern Agency. The chapters have identified their Local Rural Addressing Committee (LRAC) members. There have been two LRAC orientations and training sessions conducted by the Northern Agency which included chapter representatives. The Western Agency needs to schedule and conduct their LRAC orientation and training sessions.



June 2008 Task Force Meeting

The *Navajo Nation Enhanced 9-1-1 Task Force* came together on June 26 & 27, 2008 at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, AZ to give updates and identify requirements and continue the rural address, signage, and Enhanced 9-1-1 implementation. Representatives from various Navajo Nation departments attended along with representatives from San Juan County, McKinley County and the Hopi Tribe.

Several critical items were discussed during the breakout sessions which included completion of the To'hajiilee Rural Addressing Pilot Project; initiation of the San Juan County, NM rural addressing roll-out; initiation of the McKinley County, NM rural addressing roll-out; completion of the San Juan County, UT and Utah DTS-AGRC agreement and contract with Contact One for the roll-out of rural addressing to the "Utah Strip," NDOT Road Signage & Addresses, and 9-1-1 Public Education. The task force members also received updates on the status of MOUs with the counties, the E9-1-1 Service Plan, the LRACs, and 9-1-1 Public Education.

Representatives from the San Juan County and McKinley County Rural Addressing Office provided presentations and answered questions describing how they perform rural addressing in their county. The information they provided has helped in developing components of the Navajo Nation rural addressing system.

The next E9-1-1 Task Force meeting is scheduled August 25 & 26, 2008. However, the effectiveness of the task force has reached the point that the planning and implementation of rural addressing and enhanced 9-1-1 needs to shift from the task force to functional organizations. The task force and E9-1-1 staff members are transitioning responsibilities and accountabilities to the appropriate functional organizations so that the processes designed and required to support rural addressing and enhanced 9-1-1 are formalized and become permanent. Therefore, the E9-1-1 Task Force membership is being downsized to accommodate this transition and will be limited to those members. The E9-1-1 Office would like to thank all who have participated in the meetings and contributed to the success of the task force.



To'Hajiilee Road Naming

The To'Hajiilee Rural Addressing implementation is in the final stages to approve the road names that the Chapter has recommended. On July 14, 2008, E9-1-1 staff and Spatial Data Research (SDR) met with To'Hajiilee Chapter representatives to review each road to determine whether a road name was required based on the number of structures in the area. Recommendations were made and are to be completed for finalization and approval by the chapter.

The next step is the assignment of addresses to the structures by SDR. SDR will then begin the Field Verification work, which includes, GPS all roads centerlines, and structures. Prior to the field verification work, the E9-1-1 staff will be conducting 9-1-1 Public Education in To'hajiilee to inform the community members of the upcoming field work and the expectations. The 9-1-1 public education will be in the form of community events and the mailing of brochures to the postal customer boxes at Canoncito Postal Office.

During the field verification, a chapter representative and possibly an E9-1-1 staff member will accompany the SDR employee to act as a guide, interpreter and assistant by helping explain the rural addressing implementation and provide the resident or business owner with their new E9-1-1 compliant physical address. However, the new physical address will not replace the resident Postal Box. The Canoncito Postal Office will continue to deliver mails to their boxes. The new physical address will be used primarily for 9-1-1 emergencies to identify the location. In addition, the new physical address will be required for UPS delivery, driver's license, and ordering and connecting utility services.

Though it is desirable to have the road name signs installed before the field verification stage, it will probably be the last step in the rural addressing implementation for the To'Hajiilee Roll-out. Then, once the field verification is complete, residents will be requested to install their newly assigned address on their residence or business.

The posting of the address plaques to the homes or structures would be the responsibility of the home or business owner due to potential liability issues.

The E9-1-1 Task Force is striving to make the To'Hajiilee Rural Addressing implementation a success.



Northern Agency LRAC Status Update



Shiprock Aerial Photo

Several chapters have been working diligently on their rural addressing project. The Beclabito Chapter has already finished their rural addressing. They hired Taft Blackhorse to GPS the structures. He has completed the task and the chapter is waiting for the next step in the process.

Newcomb Chapter has taken the lead in rural addressing, they hired Marlene Sherman to monitor the project. Ms. Sherman is supervising the basic data collection and working with summer youth employees. An orientation on the project was completed on July 14, 2008. These students are very enthusiastic in their efforts

forts and in realizing the impact that this project would have in future developments. They are collecting data such as, house descriptions, geographical information and names of the individuals living in the homes. They have also generated a large community map with the information.

The Burnham Chapter is also following in similar steps. They have designated Mr. Davis Henry to be the LRAC representative and ensured that the project progression is maintained. Mr. Henry took the initiative to contact the Northern LGSC Office and received an orientation on the E9-1-1/Rural Addressing project on July 15, 2008.

The TeecNosPos Chapter was provided an orientation on rural addressing on July 11, 2008. Mr. Wallace Todecheeny, the ALERT president, is the LRAC representative for the chapter and ALERT. Sanostee Chapter ALERT has also designated Ms. Loretta Holiday, president of ALERT, as the LRAC representative. Sanostee ALERT has almost completed their basic data collection under Ms. Holiday's direction.

Several Northern Navajo chapters' LRAC representatives met with Ms. Nancy Anstead, San Juan Rural Addressing Coordinator, on July 10, 2008, at SJF Fire Operation Center in Aztec, New Mexico. Mr. Chris Cardin, San Juan County Fire Marshall, was also in attendance. The group came to a tentative agreement to continue with the road numbering system used by San Juan County in order to keep consistency within the County. The group toured the SJC Public Safety Answering Point and the Public Works Sign Shop.

LGSC Summit Bring Chapters Together

The E9-1-1 Office was invited to attend the LGSC Summit in Farmington, NM to conduct Rural Addressing Presentation on July 8, 2008. The Navajo Nation E9-1-1 & Local Rural Addressing presentation was very basic and reviewed the following topics:

- What is Rural Addressing?
- Purpose of Rural Addressing
- Type of Addressing Methods
- Addressing Standards
- NN Rural Addressing Authority
- NN Rural Addressing Roll out Philosophy
- MOU with Counties
- Local Rural Addressing Committee (LRAC)

- Confidentiality of Addresses Road Signage Tasks
- Chapter 9-1-1 address Data

Based on the questions that arose, some chapters are still working on their road naming and inquired on additional orientation. Other chapters are moving forward communicating that the county has already addressed the majority of their area. It was emphasized to the participant that they need to coordinate their road naming with other surrounding chapters and the counties, in which they reside to ensure continuity. The LGSC Task Force representative in coordination with the E9-1-1 Office can provide the required training to the Local Rural Addressing Committee (LRAC).

Western Agency LRAC Status Update

All chapters except for two have appointed representatives to the Local Rural Addressing Committee (LRAC) at the District Level. District One and Eight have completed appointments of (LRAC) representatives. An orientation on LRAC Goals and Objectives, Chapter Map Assignment for Rural Addressing, Roles and Responsibilities of LRAC, and Local Rural Addressing Standards was held for District 5 on May 15, 2008. The other District that selected (LRAC) representatives is District 1 and an orientation was held on May 22, 2008. A rural addressing coordination meeting for LRAC of District One was accom-

plished on July 17, 2008 at Kaibeto Chapter.

All of the chapters that have selected Local Rural Addressing Committee representatives from their chapters needed to amend their Plan of Operation to indicate representatives that will receive stipend payments for attending District meetings and that the CLUPC will work on Local Rural Addressing.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

Navajo E9-1-1 Newsletter welcomes letters from readers on the Navajo Nation who have used 9-1-1 for help. Tell us your experience. Letters should be limited to 120 words or less.

Letters libelous or slanderous will not be accepted. Letters must have writer's true name (no fake) with address and telephone number in the event we must contact you.

Upcoming Events

- ▶ Dine College Youth Day with Miss Navajo Nation on August 02, 2008
- ▶ To'Hajiilee School-Recognition Day Celebration on August 13, 2008
- ▶ August 25-26, 2008 Task Force Meeting, Navajo Nation Museum Window Rock, Arizona.

Training Offered to Eastern LRAC



E9-1-1 Task Force members tour San Juan County Public Works department Mr. Robin Cobb

Chapter administration, elected officials and appointed LRAC members are being invited to attend a work session to learn the purpose for the Navajo Nation Rural Addressing and Enhanced 9-1-1 Services, which is intended to save lives and property.

A prerequisite to initiating the Rural Addressing initiative was to have a member appointed from each chapter to serve on the Local Rural Addressing Committee (LRAC) to assist with necessary Rural Addressing and Enhanced 9-1-1 tasks, as required by the state and the counties. There are two (2) important tasks that needs to be implemented, they include: 1) to link up the chapters with their County Rural Addressing department to learn of their local requirements for rural addressing system, status of their current addressing and, more importantly, to become familiar with the representative at the county level, and 2) to seek assistance from these resources to help provide trainings and orientations for the LRAC members.

The LRAC members, chapter administration and elected officials will all be participating in a work session to develop the organizational foundation to establish LRAC at their chapter. This means, becoming more knowledgeable of their roles and responsibilities, the goals and objectives of the rural addressing initiative, de-

veloping a Plan of Operation, reviewing or establishing their budget, understanding the importance of record keeping, and adopting procedures of conduct for meetings. This will make certain that chapter administration and elected officials have the same basic understanding of the Rural Addressing initiative and what the role and responsibility of their LRAC member will expected to fulfill. The work session was provided on July 22 and 23, 2008 for the enrolled members only in Gallup, New Mexico. ❁



Nancy Anstead explaining the importance of materials and equipments to be used for rural addressing

**We're
on the Web
www.e911.navajo.org**

(Continued from Page 1, Road Signage) Navajo Nation. In order to successfully complete rural addressing for the To'Hajiilee Pilot Project, road name signs must be installed and addresses posted at each driveway entrance if the dwelling is too far from the road for the address to be readable. Home and business owners are responsible for installing their own enhanced 9-1-1 compliant address if it can be seen and readable from the road.

The successful completion of the To'hajiilee Pilot Project sets the stage and allows for the continued roll-out of rural addressing Navajo Nation-wide. ❁

Chinle Agency LRAC Status Update



Chinle Agency LRAC, R-L Edbert Little, Jane Baloo, straw hat-Dennis Clah and in red cap-Harrison Honie

Chinle Agency Local Rural Addressing Committee members were provided orientation on March 15, 2008. At which time they also received maps for each of the sixteen (16) chapters in this Agency. Half of the maps have been returned to our Agency office and the other chapters are continuing to work on completing the road names on their map. The Committee was informed to take time in naming the roads, a Memorandum of Agreement between the Navajo Nation, the County and the Contractor are in process.

Chinle Agency LRAC members have been attending E9-1-1 Task Force meetings. Members are Dennis Clah, Blue Gap/Tachee Chapter; Mike Dennison, Round Rock; Jane Baloo, Black Mesa Chapter; Harrison Honie, Black Mesa Chapter President, and Black Mesa Chapter Coordinator, Edbert Little. Dennis Clah attended the last three E911 Task Force Meetings and is aware of E911 issues on the Navajo Nation and the LRAC status in all agencies. He is providing his summary to seven (7) chapters in District 4; including, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Low Mountain, and Whip-poorwill Chapter.

Local Rural Addressing Committee members in Chinle Agency are provided updates through meetings held at the Chapters and Agency level. ❁