



Navajo Nation 9-1-1 News

Dine bi beyah, nahat'ei - t'aalai - taalai Bahane

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Government Service 9-1-1 Subcommittee Demonstrates Support & Commitment



GSC 9-1-1 Subcommittee Members Orlando Smith-Hodge and Roy Laughter addresses the E9-1-1 Task Force attendees

In 2003, Government Services Committee directed the Director of Communications and Utilities to research and coordinate with the necessary Divisions and Offices to recommend the most efficient and effective emergency 9-1-1 system to be established on the Navajo Nation.

As a result of this directive, the now Navajo Nation Telecommunications and Utilities (NNTU) began working on this initiative and organized the *Navajo Nation Enhanced 9-1-1 Task Force*. A required prerequisite for state funding of the Navajo Nation enhanced 9-1-1 initiative is a Service Plan which requires approval by the Navajo Nation Enhanced 9-1-1 Planning Committee.

The Government Services Committee chose to establish a 9-1-1 Subcommittee to ensure all issues are addressed. The subcommittee members are Orlanda Smith-Hodge (Chairperson), Danny Simpson (Vice Chairperson) and Roy Laughter (member). The 9-1-1 subcommittee have held several meetings to date and assisted greatly in addressing 9-1-1 tasks.

Recently, Chairperson Smith-Hodge and Member Roy Laughter attended the August 2007 two-day task force meeting. They participated in a number of breakout sessions which provided them with the

status of various activities the Task Force has identified to establish an effective enhanced 9-1-1 system. Each breakout session discussed important topics and established action plans going forward that will contribute to establishing an effective enhanced 9-1-1 system.

The Subcommittee became aware that a key component to the success of the initiative is establishing Local Rural Addressing Committees, training and orienting them, and having them complete the responsibilities they are assigned. Successful completion of enhanced 9-1-1 and rural addressing are major initiatives that involve all the tribal programs or organizations that provide services to the Navajo people.

However, the GSC Enhanced 9-1-1 Subcommittee members observed that some organizations seem hesitant to make the commitment necessary to move forward with this very important initiative for the people they serve.

The GSC 9-1-1 Subcommittee wholeheartedly supports the Task Force, the members and the staff of the Navajo Nation Telecommunication and Utilities department in successfully planning and implementing the defined initiatives for the benefit of the Navajo people.

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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 payphone.



GSC 9-1-1 Subcommittee tour New Mexico State Police Comm. Center



GSC 9-1-1 Subcommittee tour Gallup Metro Dispatch Center

NEW MEXICO RURAL ADDRESSING ROLL OUT PLAN

The New Mexico Local Rural Addressing Breakout Session occurred during the August 2007 E-9-1-1 Task Force meeting. The main objective for this session is to initiate rural addressing projects for New Mexico counties' McKinley, San Juan, and Cibola, to define what existing information/data/resources that are readily made available to them, and to obtain a cost estimate/price quote to perform the rural addressing within all these New Mexico counties.

Members from the LGSC, various chapters, and other interested parties dis-

cussed what needs to be accomplished to properly prepare for the start of their local rural addressing projects.

The work group acknowledged before the rural addressing can commence, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) needs to be established and is in place between the Navajo Nation and McKinley, San Juan, Cibola counties. This would allow the GIS/GPS consultant to access the Navajo Nation to conduct fieldwork. The work group also recognized instead of creating a project from the beginning, they would seek local knowledge resource that has experience in

the realm of GIS and Rural Addressing within McKinley San Juan, Cibola Counties (non-Navajo Nation coverage). Once the project area has been delineated, they would find a GIS Consultant for fieldwork and to submit a cost proposal to the consultant for the proposed work within the counties (within Navajo Nation boundary or boundaries). In addition, develop a Professional Services Agreement with the GIS Consultant. With steps identified, they can start implementing their geo-spatial planning and addressing projects.



Utah Strip Rural Addressing Planning

One of the breakout sessions from the *Navajo Nation Enhanced 9-1-1 Task Force* meeting focused on the planning necessary to maintain continuity of the rural addressing roll-out initiative Navajo Nation-wide. The "Utah Strip" is located in the southern portion of San Juan County, Utah and consists of one complete chapter, Aneth; and parts of six additional chapters, Red Mesa, Mexican Water, Teec Nos Pos, Dennehotso, Oljato and Navajo Mountain.

The planning discussion identified a significant amount of map data and information currently available that could be utilized to "jump start" the addressing initiative for the "Utah Strip." Through a cooperative effort between San Juan County, several organizations and the various chapters an important portion of the preliminary work has already been completed. Once funding for the project is available, it was agreed the "Utah Strip" offered an opportunity to successfully complete the rural addressing for the area.

Funding is a necessary prerequisite for every project. Since completing the rural addressing for the "Utah Strip" would be a benefit for those chapters, it was agreed applying for funding through the Utah Navajo Trust Fund was appropriate and the process for applying for

funding was identified. In addition, San Juan County offered financial support to the initiative and several other potential sources of funding were identified. Following the funding discussion, the subgroup developed and agreed on an action plan to continue moving forward.

Martha Saggbon and Cassandra Beletso, representatives from the Mexican Water Chapter, attended the meeting and participated in the discussion. They indicated a cooperative relationship already existed between the chapters that are part of the "Utah Strip" and confirmed it would be relatively easy to assemble members for the *Local Rural Addressing Committee* and have them complete their assigned responsibilities associated with the rural addressing initiative on behalf of their chapters and the overall "community of interest" made up of the seven chapters.

Rick Bailey and Greg Adams represented San Juan County, Utah. The Utah Navajo Trust Fund representatives included Tony Dayish and Stephen Smith. Kelly Green represented the Automated Geographic Reference Center from the State of Utah. Jerry Merlick represented Contact One.

The planning template developed for the "Utah Strip" is intended to be expanded for planning the rural addressing roll-out for the Arizona portion of the Navajo Nation at the November 6-7, 2007 task force meeting. Chapter representatives are welcome to attend the task force meeting, participate in the planning session related to their "community of interest" in Arizona, and observe the breakout sessions and progress being made elsewhere.



Rural Addressing workgroup discussion on Utah and New Mexico Roll Out

Emergency Management Commission Sees Opportunity

The Commission on Emergency Management purpose is to provide effective and efficient Emergency Management services on a 24 hour basis within the territorial jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation and coordinating with other Navajo Nation Division, Departments, Programs and local communities as well as other tribal, federal, state and county organizations. One of their key responsibilities is to recommend to the Navajo Nation President to declare a State of Emergency. The Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management (DEM) works in conjunction with the Commission in addressing the State of Emergency. Both of these organization see the need for rural addressing and are working to support, plan, develop and implement rural addressing on Navajo Nation. Rural Addressing will help expedite emergency services and response to residents across our Nation.

Police, Fire Services, Emergency Medical Services and Disaster Response will deploy manpower, supplies and equipment in more immediate and less time to the needs of the public. Other improvements we expect to see are improved responses to most often difficult situations dealing with weather related incidents such as flash

floods, high wind damages to homes and wild fires.

DEM presently receives increase calls from communities. It is difficult to ask for specific, detailed information. The caller usually don't know exact location. They are also challenged for sites specific information for the public.

Teaching the public on the types of hazards and incidents will also help them provide accurate information for DEM and other emergency personnel to work with to make better immediate decisions.

Weather related situations can easily overwhelmed communities, especially muddy roads. There is a urgency for rural addressing on the Navajo Nation. Once implemented, location information is readily available for use in addressing the emergency.



PSAP Breakout Session

Emergency Communication Center Plans

The Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Workgroup regrouped at the August Task Force meeting to continue discussion on the draft plans for the Emergency Communication Center (ECC) and the Standard Operating Procedures.

Edmund Yazzie, Vice Chairperson, Public Safety Committee also a member of the Navajo Nation Enhanced 9-1-1 Planning Committee participated in the PSAP breakout sessions. He heard first hand from the Navajo Nation dispatchers the need for an ECC and current working conditions.

The group reviewed the proposed organization chart and the proposed Plan of Operation for the ECC which will need Public Safety Committee approval. Lastly, they reviewed the final draft of the Standard Operating Procedures for the ECC.



Tohajiilee Rural Addressing Project-RESTART

During the August 2007 E9-1-1 Task Force meeting, the members tackled several critical issues concerning E9-1-1. One of the issues at hand was the Tohajiilee Rural Addressing (RA) Pilot Project Restart.

The members comprised included Garyald Benally, LeAnne M. Roy, Rachelle Silver-Tagaban, John Baldwin, Ronald Tsinnajinnie, Clint Wedel, Angie Glenn, Margorie Lantana, Roy Laughter and Orlanda Smith-Hodge.

To give a brief background on the Tohajiilee RA Pilot Project, the first kick-off meeting was back on February 1, 2007. During this time the State of New Mexico agreed, with certain conditions, to sponsor the Tohajiilee RA Pilot Project. One condition that the State of New Mexico requested was a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU needed to be between Bernalillo County and the Navajo Nation concerning the pilot project. Unfortunately on April 27, 2007, the State of New Mexico placed the MOU on hold due

to an incompletion of the MOU that was agreed upon. Currently, the MOU is now awaiting oversight committee approval.

So during the break out session, the members received a review of the project as to where the project stands today and how to get the project rolling again. Spatial Data Research (SDR), the New State contractor for the project was present. A few issues that were discussed were completion of the road naming by the Tohajiilee Community Action Team (TCAT), public education on the how the rural addressing will be performed, designation of an interpreter to accompany the SDR field crew during the field verification process, identification of a vendor to purchase post and signs along with cost estimates for both the roads and structures. Lastly, determine who will post the signs.

With Tohajiilee being a pilot project for the Eastern Navajo Chapters, the rest of the chapter's initiative for Local Rural Addressing should progress more smoothly. The chapters are encourage to utilize their

current Community Land Use Planning committee to be part of the planning group for their chapters. While operating at their local level and E9-1-1 services must be a priority for all chapters.

In addition, New Mexico chapters are encourage to submit a proposal to the state of New Mexico for the upcoming 2008 Legislative session to fund the project to plan, implement and install local Rural Addressing System.



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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

- ▶ Navajo Nation Fair Activities
 ·E9-1-1 Booth at Nakai Hall
 ·Red E. Fox appearance at the Parade on 9/8/07
- ▶ Next E9-1-1 Task Force Mtg
 ·November 6 & 7, 2007
 Navajo Nation Museum
 Window Rock, AZ

August 2007 E9-1-1 Task Force Meeting

The E9-1-1 Task Force meeting was held at Navajo Nation Museum for two days, on August 21 & 22, 2007. For the first time since the Task Force meeting began there were over 60 participants that attended the meeting. Government Services Committee members Orlanda Hodge-Smith and Roy Laughter, along with Public Safety Committee Vice Chairperson, Edmund Yazzie were in attendance. Representatives from Navajo Tribal Utility, Navajo Housing Authority, Apache County Recorder, Bureau of Indian Affairs Office, San Juan County, State of Utah 9-1-1 Office, Utah Trust Fund Office, Frontier Communications, Mexican Chapter, Cameron Chapter, and two State rural addressing contractors: Contact One and Spatial Data Research

also were in attendance.

During the two days a number of breakout sessions were held which included NHA Rural Addressing, Tohajiilee Rural Addressing-Restart, New Mexico Rural Addressing Roll Out, Utah Strip Rural Addressing Planning, PSAP Standard Operating Procedures and the Emergency Communication Centers.

During the afternoon of the second day the task force members provided presentations on each of the breakout sessions.

Overall, the meeting was a success. The task force members will continue to work on the various workgroup task until the next scheduled E9-1-1 Task Force meeting. At which time, task force members will provide an update on any progress that has been made.



Workgroup Presentation



E9-1-1 August Task Force Meeting

NHA Rural Addressing Developments

The Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) Addressing workgroup breakout session was held during the August 2007 E-9-1-1 Task Force meeting. The NHA representative were Earl Tulley, Dwayne Waseta, and Mike Raisano. Other new members included Ronald Tsinnajinnie, NTUA; Kelly Green, State of Utah; and John Baldwin, BIA-Eastern Agency. The break out session began with questions from the new members on the developments of rural addressing and where they fit into the picture. Initially, there was confusion but once the rural addressing roll out philosophy was explained and the approach the task force was taking the new members had a better understanding of the tasks. The breakout session focus on bringing the NHA organization up-to-speed on how vital their contribution is needed in implementing rural addressing. NHA is an integral part of the success of the Navajo Nation-wide rural addressing initiative.

Some of the key tasks that need to be completed are:

1. Identify subdivision locations within the Navajo Nation
2. Identify Residential and Business locations
3. Identify Community Names
4. Identify Road Names
5. Identify and provide complete contact information for all the Housing Directors
6. Initiate contact with NTUA
7. Identify other Resources available
8. Identify data available

One of the key issue is bringing NHA into the Digital Age by converting hard-copy CAD into a binary (digital) format

To fill this digital divide, it was suggested by the sub-group that NHA develop and fill a GIS analyst position or outsource their technical work to a geo-spatial vendor. Once the NHA satisfactorily completes the step-by-step tasks identified, they can start implementing their geo-spatial planning and addressing projects.



NHA break out session discussion