



Navajo Nation 9-1-1 News

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

Volume 2, Issue 6 Nov/Dec 2007 (Bi-Monthly Issue) Window Rock, Arizona

Red E. Fox promotes 9-1-1 Awareness



Red E. Fox, Navajo Nation 9-1-1 for Kids Mascot greets children and poses with Wingate ROTC members at Shiprock Fair

The Navajo Nation Fairs and Parades in Window Rock, Shiprock, Dilcon, and Crownpoint provided an opportunity for E9-1-1 Task Force members to increase 9-1-1 awareness. Our star hero Red E. Fox made his appearance at the parades. Both young and old parade goers were elated to see Red E. Fox and took the opportunity to shake his hand or give him a hug. Red E. Fox is designated as the Navajo Nation's 9-1-1 for Kids mascot.

Red E. Fox, along with public safety representatives will provide 9-1-1 education to local schools and youth organizations. This education team will give the **9-1-1 for Kids** presentation to students. The representatives will speak to children about the proper use of 9-1-1, answer questions, and distribute 9-1-1 stickers, coloring books and other 9-1-1 materials for kids.

There are exercises and role-playing activities that will help the children gain experience and confidence in emergency situations.

Additionally, there is an 18-minute musically enhanced video starring Red E. Fox and his muppet friends in "The Great 9-1-1 Adventure." The video teaches when to use 9-1-1, how to use 9-1-1 and what to say. The education also emphasizes the negative implications of calling 9-1-1 for curiosity or thrill-seeking. The presentation instructs children using an approach that is lively and in basic terms that are easy to remember.

To request for Red E. Fox to visit your school, contact Valcita Thomson, Community Involvement Specialist, E9-1-1 Office at (928) 871-7742.



Navajo Nation Band member poses with Red E. Fox at Shiprock Fair



Crownpoint students pose with Red E. Fox at Dilcon Fair Parade

Inside this issue:

ALERT	2
RF Radio Network & System	2
November Task Force Meeting	2
9-1-1 Public Education Events	3
Tohajilee RA progresses	3
PSAP Budget & Funding	3
CIS Travels with Red E. Fox	3
E9-1-1 Telephone Network	4
NM Rural Addressing	4

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.



Holiday Fire Prevention Tips

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant"
- Place tree away from fireplaces and radiators
- Maintain your holiday lights
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Do not leave holiday lights on unattended
- Use only nonflammable decorations
- Never put wrapping paper in a fireplace or stove
- Avoid using lit candles
- Never put lit candles on a tree
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree



Authorized Local Emergency Response Team (ALERT)

The Department of Emergency Management recommends assigning local rural addressing activities to the local community's Authorized Local Emergency Response Team (ALERT).

The need to name roads and address homes and other structures on the Navajo Nation is critical in establishing more timely response to emergencies. Rural Addressing helps dispatch emergency assistance to residents on our reservation in life and property threatening situations. The vast distances to homes and people in need of medical attention, police, fire and other emergency response requires location information to respond with emergency assistance. The more accurate

and descriptive the location information, the more effective and timely the emergency response.

The local community's ALERT are becoming increasingly important for developing ways and means to gain more immediate access to residents in remote and isolated homes and communities. The task of having volunteer responders that live in the community identify homes and dwellings helps develop more accurate information. Addressing homes will prove beneficial by helping the community feel safer knowing that these developments are to help prepare and improve response times and recovery during any type of hazard or disaster.

It is always a challenge to keep a full complement of volunteer responders and to retain them without pay. This is possible since the volunteers are primarily responding and contributing to the safety of their own community. The benefits to Navajo citizens are many folds. The need for immediate response to save lives and property will increase the use of technology. It will encourage more community development projects. The growth and development will increase employment and education will require people to man these jobs opportunities as E9-1-1 continues to work and establish the response system.



Navajo Nation's RF Radio Network & System Needs Upgrade

The E9-1-1 Task Force held a breakout session on the Navajo Nation RF Radio Network during their November 2007 Task Force meeting. The discussion identified stakeholders in the RF radio network, as well as some issues concerning the radio network across the Navajo Nation. The RF radio network is an integral part of the E9-1-1 response process. Therefore, the RF network must be reliable and the coverage and interoperability issues satisfactorily resolved. The RF radio network will require upgrading in order to grow and maintain a technologically advanced and robust RF radio network Navajo Nation-wide.

There are many entities in the Southwest United States that utilize the RF radio network across the Navajo Nation, most of whom are not first responders. With so many different frequencies being used at any given time, there tends to be interference. The Navajo Nation Public Safety represents the majority of usage, yet has inadequate coverage, low capacity, a non-integrated network, and a shortage of staff and adequately equipped positions. For example, in the Shiprock district, which covers approximately 3,200 square miles and serves more than 38,000 people, has no RF coverage for approximately 30%-40% for the district.

This breakout session was designed

to start identifying and developing solutions for issues associated with the RF Radio Network & Systems. Sub-group members will contribute to developing and maintaining an agenda to identify issues, problems and potential problems with the RF Radio Network & Systems. Ultimately, the objective is to establish funding to help the Navajo Nation move to the desired future for their RF Radio Network & Systems.



Lt. Leonard Redhorse, NDLE-Shiprock expresses his views at the November E9-1-1 Task Force meeting

November 2007 E9-1-1 Task Force

The Navajo Nation E9-1-1 Task Force conducted their bi-monthly Task Force meeting at the Navajo Nation Museum on November 6 & 7, 2007. The E9-1-1 Task Force members continue to participate in strategic planning for the future of the safety of the Navajo Nation citizens. In attendance were Government Service Committee 9-1-1 sub-committee members Orlanda Smith-Hodge and Roy Laughter, Public Safety Committee Vice Chairperson Edmund Yazzie, representatives from Spatial Data Research, Frontier Communications, Office of the President & Vice President and chapters.

The meeting breakout sessions were held on the following topics: 1) 9-1-1 Public Education, 2) New Mexico Rural Addressing Roll-out, 3) Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Budget and Funding, and 4) Navajo Nation RF Radio Network & Systems. The task force members also received update reports on the Tohajiilee Rural Addressing Project, Local Rural Addressing Committees and the Enhanced 9-1-1 Service Plan. The two-day meeting ended with presentations from the various work group and sub-group members on what was accomplished during the breakout sessions and plans to continue moving forward. The next meeting is scheduled for January 29 & 30, 2008. The E9-1-1 Office thanks all attendees for their contribution at the two day meeting.



9-1-1 Public Education Workgroup Plan Holiday Activities **Tohajiilee Project Progresses**

The Navajo Nation Enhanced 9-1-1 (E9-1-1) Task Force is working diligently to coordinate the planning and implementation of a Navajo Nation-wide enhanced 9-1-1 system. One of the key components of the E9-1-1 system is public education.

At the November 2007 E9-1-1 Task Force meeting, a breakout session was held to discuss 9-1-1 Public Education. The workgroup members discussed ways to increase 9-1-1 awareness. Some suggestions included presentations to Navajo Nation standing committees, scheduling of 9-1-1 Public Education events, and the purchase and distribution of promotional items.

The workgroup members decided to plan and conduct 9-1-1 public education events at the Wal-Mart Super Centers in Gallup, New Mexico and Farmington, New Mexico on December 8, 2007 and December 15, 2007, respectively. The goal is to promote 9-1-1

awareness by and disseminating promotional items & providing safety tips for the upcoming holidays. The events will be held from 11:00am to 3:00pm. During this time, Red E. Fox, the Navajo Nation 9-1-1 for Kids mascot, will be at the events to help relate to children and increase their awareness. The Navajo Nation Fire & Rescue and San Juan Fire Department personnel are schedule to assist in the event.

The workgroup members also discussed scheduling a "FOCUS" broadcast on KTNN whereby information will be provided on the Navajo Nation Enhanced 9-1-1 progress and activities. Listeners will have an opportunity to call in to ask the panel questions. Sampson Cowboy, Division Director, Division of Public Safety and Council Delegate Orlanda Smith-Hodge have agreed to participate on the panel. With many holiday events happening, the E9-1-1 staff will utilize those opportunities to promote 9-1-1 awareness.



With the MOU signed by the Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr., Navajo Nation President on September 17, 2007, the Tohajiilee Rural Addressing Project is rolling again.

Once the final seven roads are named, Spatial Data Research (SDR) will begin address assignments for the structures. They will then proceed with field verification work as follows:

- »Verify location & resident information
 - »Verify location of 9-1-1 landmarks
 - »Verify location of road centerlines
- A designated chapter community member will accompany SDR during fieldwork.

Address notification will be delivered or mailed to Tohajiilee residents and businesses. This may be done during the field verification work or during the posting of signs.

The E9-1-1 is working directly with the Tohajiilee Chapter Officials and recently provided a update on the project to community members at the Tohajiilee Chapter meeting on November 20, 2007.



Seasons Greeting from the Navajo Nation E9-1-1 Task Force



Community Involvement Specialist Travels with Red E. Fox

On several occasions, I traveled throughout the Navajo Nation entering different events such as Navajo Nation Fair, Southwest Fair, Northern Shiprock Fair parades and traveling to the Eastern Agency for the Red Ribbon Campaign.

At each event the Red E. Fox, 9-1-1 for Kids mascot, is present to promote 9-1-1 education to children between 4-7 years of age. However, children of all ages, parents and grandparents also approach and shake hands with Red E. Fox.

When Red E. Fox is out in the public view, it never fails to see the expression on the children's faces, their excitement and curiosities comes to mine. Without hesitation the children would approach Red E. Fox and with no words spoken; Red E. Fox would get a hug or a hand shake from the public. Going to many different locations across the Navajo Nation to attend these events with Red E. Fox brings happiness and excitement into children's life. Something they will always

remember. Sometimes I would see Red E. Fox being blessed with corn pollen and hear someone say "bring us good luck, you are a sacred to Navajo Nation". Traveling across the Navajo Nation with Red E. Fox has made a difference in children and people lives. When Red E. Fox was in Crownpoint during the Red Ribbon Campaign an article was printed in the Department of Youth Newsletter how Red E. Fox is interacting with children how he made positive impact on safety rules.

Red E. Fox and the E9-1-1 Task Force will continue to promote safety for children and people across the Navajo Nation Wide. As we move forward into the future, Red E. Fox will be there to continue to do his work teaching children what 9-1-1 is and how to use 9-1-1.



PSAP Budget & Funding

The PSAP Budget & Funding work group initiated discussion on ways to obtain funding for enhanced 9-1-1, rural addressing and related sub-projects during their breakout session at the November 2007 Task Force meeting.

The session began with identification of appropriate members then led to brainstorming to identify internal Navajo Nation resources with grant writing expertise. Next, the group focused on identifying potential sources of funding other than state funds. About twenty sources were identified for further research and evaluation to determine whether it is a potential source of funding.

It was decided that a boilerplate grant application or proposal be developed to make sure that all pertinent information for the enhanced 9-1-1 program was included.

The need to identify a grant research group and grant writers was raised. The individuals would need to be knowledgeable with grant writing experience. It was agreed that tapping existing internal knowledge resources would be the best approach to the limited amount of grant writing that would be required to secure additional funding for the complement of sub-projects to help make enhanced 9-1-1 a reality Navajo Nation-wide.



NAVAJO NATION TELECOMMUNICATION & UTILITIES (NNTU)

P.O. Box 2928
Window Rock, Arizona 86515
Phone: 928-871-7742/7749
Fax: 928-871-7741

E9-1-1 Staff

Valcita Thompson, Community Involvement Spec.
E-mail: vthompson@citlink.net
www.e911.navajo.org

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

- ▶ **9-1-1 Public Education Events**
 - **December 8, 2007, WalMart Supercenter, Gallup, NM**
 - **December 15, 2007, WalMart Supercenter, Farmington, NM**
- ▶ **9-1-1 Rural Addressing Presentation at Eastern Navajo Agency LGSC Annual Winter Conference on December 4, 2007 in Albuquerque, N.M.**
- ▶ **Next E9-1-1 Task Force Meet is scheduled on January 29 & 30, 2008 at Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, AZ.**

E9-1-1 Telephone Network Infrastructure Plans

Rural addressing to support the implementation of enhanced 9-1-1 is just getting started on the Navajo Nation. Enhanced 9-1-1 can be implemented piecemeal by area as progress is made with rural addressing. Therefore, the entire Navajo Nation does not to complete rural addressing before some residents begin realizing the benefits of enhanced 9-1-1 in their community.

As rural addressing nears completion for each area served by a telephone exchange prefix, dedicated 9-1-1 circuits will be ordered from the telephone company that will connect directly between their end office and their main telephone switch. For Navajo Communications Company their main switch is located in

St. Michaels, AZ and Sacred Wind Communications will have their new switch located in Yah ta Hey, NM. From their main switch location, the telephone company will route 9-1-1 emergency calls to the dedicated 9-1-1 network serving the entire state. The 9-1-1 call will then be selectively routed to the appropriate Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) based on the physical location, or address, from which the call was placed. In the case of wireless 9-1-1 emergency calls, the call will also be routed to the appropriate PSAP based on the location from which the call was placed. However, rather than using the physical address to route the 9-1-1 emergency call, it is routed based on latitude and longitude.



NM Rural Addressing Roll out Continues

The rural addressing roll-out philosophy for the Navajo Nation is planned to start in New Mexico and basically move from east to west and in Utah and Arizona from north to south. Exceptions will be made if "communities of interest" (multiple chapters) have completed all the prerequisites to rural addressing and demonstrated their readiness to move forward.

The State of New Mexico is funding the rural addressing for the New Mexico portion of the Navajo Nation. Fiscal Year 2008 budgets have been approved to fund the roll-out. The budgets are included in county grants by the Division of Finance and Administration's Local Government Division (LGD). The LGD pays the contractor directly upon approval of invoices by the county. Therefore, the roll-out will be coordinated by "community of interests," but managed by county. There must be very close coordination with the county and the contractor, SDR.

Before any work begins by SDR, there must be an MOU or MOA in-place

between the Navajo Nation and the county agreeing to the work that will be performed and the rolls of parties to the agreement. Those agreements have been initiated with McKinley, Cibola and San Juan Counties.

Another requirement the State of New Mexico has is that the necessary infrastructure needs to be formally committed to by the Navajo Nation to implement and maintain the rural addressing initiative once it is started.

The Navajo Nation has identified the organization that the addressing authority will reside and several new job positions are currently being classified by Human Resources. The necessary equipment and software for one position has been purchased and initially the position will reside within the E9-1-1 organization, later to move to the Division of Community Development. As the rural addressing roll-out progresses, road signage will be purchased and installed by the designated organization within Navajo Nation. It has been recommended that Navajo Department of Transportation perform this responsibility..

In preparation for rural addressing, each chapter could start reviewing and developing recommendations for road names in their community. Then, the road name recommendations will be coordinated with surrounding chapters and the county before being finalized.



Pauline McCabe expresses her views at the November Task Force meeting during the NM Rural Addressing Roll out session.