

How do I apply for a 911 address?

The Bladen County 911 Addressing Office is responsible for assigning addresses to improved properties. Applicants for a 911 address must first obtain permits from the Environmental Health Department located in the Powell Melvin Agriculture Building 450 Smith Cir. Elizabethtown NC 28337. 910-862-6852. This includes temporary addresses required for water meters, power poles and roadway tiles.

The request for a 911 address will be completed at this time. The Environmental Health office then forwards the request to our office electronically.

How are 911 addresses assigned?

We locate each site via GIS Mapping and at times via DMI (Distance Measuring Device), measuring the distance from the beginning of the road to the entrance to the proposed property, assigning 1 number for each 5.28 feet with even numbers on the right and odd numbers on the left. Our office also pinpoints the location of each property with a GPS (global positioning system) unit.

Why is a 911 address required?

Requirement of a 911 address is a NC Statute as well as a county ordinance. The Ordinance requires each residence or business to have these numbers posted at the entrance to your property, within 75 feet of the road which you are addressed on and the numbers must be posted on the residence.

The 911 posting requirements are as follows: Address letters must be 4 inches or larger and of contrasting color to the background. The letters must be placed on the residence and at the entrance to the residence. Addresses may be posted on the mailbox to the residence if the mailbox is on the same side of the road as the residence and is the only mailbox located along the roadway. Businesses are required to post letters 6 inches tall or larger on the front and back door of the business. It is a misdemeanor not to comply with this ordinance.

How does this address relate to the 911 System?

This information is forwarded to the Bladen County GIS/Addressing Department, they use this information to create maps, one of which will show the exact location of your residence when you call 911. **We also are responsible for the information that goes into the 911 CAD system in the Bladen County Communications Center.** When you call 911, your name, address, phone number, directions to your house, and all emergency responders responsible for your location automatically appear on the communications officers' screen.

We also have the ability to enter any medical problems that your family may have, where your fuel tank and breaker box are located in the event of a fire, and the number of persons that reside in your house. Part-time residents can have their out-of-state phone numbers registered, should there be an emergency with their property, we can notify them without delay.

Elderly parents living alone can register their children's name and numbers, reducing contact time, in the event of an emergency. **Our goal is to assist the emergency personnel in every way to ensure efficient response times.**

Who maintains the road signs in Bladen County?

Our office is responsible for erecting, maintaining and replacing, when necessary, all road name signs in Bladen County. Please call our office at (910) 862-6784 to report any down or damaged signs within our county.

What happens if I am using an invalid 911 address?

The numbers on the houses along a street should be in order from low to high, with odd numbers on one side of the street and even numbers on the other side. If we notice an address that is out of sequence, we will change it and send a letter to the owner.

If more than two house use the same driveway, then that driveway should be named and the houses addressed along that driveway. Each house needs its own address - no sharing.

Why do I need to change?

Although finding your house is helpful for deliveries and visitors, the most important reason is for safety. What if you call **911** and can't talk to describe to the dispatcher how to find your house? The extra time needed to locate you can make a significant difference in survival and degree of recovery from an accident or illness.

Correct addressing helps emergency responders to find addresses quickly. *Seconds count in an emergency.* It also enables utilities to be connected, outages to be located and repaired quickly, and efficient delivery of mail, packages, and services.

What if I don't?

You are putting yourself, your family, and your neighbors at risk in an emergency.

What if I use a PO Box for my mail?

You can continue to use the P.O. Box for your mail, but the new address is the location address of your house.

But the ambulance found me last year with no problem!

Logical and consistent addressing saves lives. New emergency personnel may not know you.

How?

Who do I contact?

Let your friends and family know. Notify any company that sends you bills, magazines, or other important information, such as mortgage, financial, and insurance documents.

Contact your letter carrier or the local post office about a change of address notification.

Update your driver's license or DMV ID card at a local office or online at www.ncdot.org/dmv/. **Each card you request will cost \$10.00.** For ID Card customers 70 and older, a new duplicate ID Card is free.

Bladen County will send an update to the E911 system, the Board of Elections, and update the location addresses with the power and phone companies. This is not the same as your mailing address, so you still need to contact those utilities to change your billing address.

Keep the letter that you received from Bladen County with your important papers. If you misplace it and need a copy, contact our office.

What else do I need to change?

If you have other real estate, business, and personal property accounts with Bladen County, you will need to make contact with them and update your physical address.

For vehicle license plates and titles, an address change should be made at NC-DMV with the form MVR-24A. There is no charge. The form can be printed online and mailed, or is available at a DMV office. Tax bills are created using the address on file with the NC-DMV.

Is the county going to pay for my expenses?

Unfortunately, the county cannot pay. The post office will continue to deliver mail with the old address for 12 months.

Do I need a new deed?

No. Your property deed is based on the legal description, not the E911 address. You do not need to change the deed to your property.

When?

How long do I have?

The information in the E911 system will be changed about four weeks after you receive a change of address letter. The information will be distributed to the other agencies within a month. The post office will continue to deliver mail with your old address for one year after the change. You should post your new address within 30 days of receiving the letter. It may take an additional month for the new address to be recognized by other address databases.