

# NEWS



**CROW WING COUNTY**  
BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

Land Services Department  
Environmental Services  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Crow Wing County E911 Public Safety Enhancements

Crow Wing County has reduced the amount of time it takes for property owners to get a blue 911 address sign installed to 2 weeks -a 93% reduction from the previous 46 weeks. Previously, address signs were placed twice a year in the spring and fall. The new process means property owners will have the blue address sign installed at the driveway within 15 days. "Common sense improvements in the address sign installation process show that we can provide excellent customer service while providing better government services at less cost" stated Chris Pence, Land Service Supervisor.

Instead of being handled by multiple departments, E911 addressing will now be coordinated by the Land Services Department, which will handle all aspects of the addressing process. In addition, new software enhancements mean information and mapping updates can occur seamlessly during the process. "The new process will enhance public safety, improve customer service, eliminate confusion, reduce costs and make it easier to access information and the application process through one department," Pence noted.

Crow Wing County government serves more than 60,000 full time residents in an area covering nearly 1,000 square miles. There are over 75,000 parcels with over 25,000 E-911 address signs. "Crow Wing County considers the safety of its residents and our guests a priority" stated David Landecker, E911 Coordinator. "It is vital that emergency vehicles are able to locate folks quickly and efficiently when there is an emergency. This new streamlined process will help achieve that".

Crow Wing County moved to the enhanced E911 address system between 1998 and 2001. During that period of time, streets were given unique names and a county grid was established for assigning E911 address numbers. This was a busy time with many resources needed for the assignment and placement of over 20,000 address signs. Currently, new address assignments average 200 per year as requested through permits involving new construction or placement of permanent structures on parcels.

While the physical E911 address and sign is an important feature of the process, the system also selectively routes public safety calls through a specialized data base and Geographic Information System (GIS) map. The routing of this information allows emergency response teams such as law enforcement, fire, ambulance and other emergency providers the ability to save valuable time to find you when that can mean life or death.

## Crow Wing County Requests Assistance From Public

Crow Wing County is requesting assistance from the public in making the E911 system work effectively and efficiently. The system relies upon the property owner to maintain signs once installed. Keep the sign visible at all times and remove vegetation, debris, snow and other intrusions. If the sign is damaged or removed, please contact the Land Services Department at (218) 824-1125 to assist in getting a new sign installed. E911 address signs or road signs shall not be altered, defaced, removed or moved and must comply with the county sign ordinance requirements. Failure to comply can result in enforcement action through the County Sheriff's Office.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1125 or [environmental.services@co.crow-wing.mn.us](mailto:environmental.services@co.crow-wing.mn.us) to discuss land use questions before starting building projects, applying for an address or with questions regarding the placement or maintenance of your E911 sign. Crow Wing County information and resources can be found at [www.co.crow-wing.mn.us](http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us).

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