

NEWS RELEASE

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2012 Proves To Be A Busy Year for the Natchitoches 9-1-1 Communications District...

Natchitoches, LA., January 29, 2013 — During the January 22, 2013 meeting of the Natchitoches Parish Communications District, the Board of Commissioners were provided annual statistics regarding the Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 system. The Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office and the Natchitoches Police Department serve as Public Safety Answering Points for the 9-1-1 system and collectively they answered 17,822 9-1-1 calls. The 9-1-1 administrative staff performed reviews and data verifications on 8,936 of those calls. The Natchitoches Parish Emergency Warning System (EWS) was activated 31 times during 2012. The EWS, which is provided by the Communications District (Natchitoches 9-1-1), is comprised of nineteen siren sites, which are located strategically throughout the parish. The EWS is remotely activated by the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's dispatch center and stands ready to warn Natchitoches Parish residents in the event of severe weather or other types of emergencies.

2012 proved to be a busy and productive year for the District from the standpoint of projects as well. The District completed Phase I of "Project Locate", which involved the development of a digitized parish mapping system identifying over 15,000 9-1-1 addresses in the Parish. Phase II of this work will be continued in 2013 and will involve further verification of the data used in this system. The most notable project work for 2012 has been the ongoing efforts related to the planning and funding for the construction of an 8,000 sq. ft. Emergency Communications Center. The new Emergency Communications Center is being designed to serve and support all of Natchitoches Parish's public safety agencies. The total cost of the facility is estimated at \$3.2 million dollars and is being funded through operating reserves of the Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 Communications District and through the District's successful award of funds from the State's Capital Outlay program. Construction could begin as early as fall 2013.

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About the Natchitoches Parish Communications District (Natchitoches 9-1-1)

Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 is committed to providing fast, efficient and effective access to emergency public safety services for all the citizens and visitors to Natchitoches Parish. Since 1988 the "District" has served in a pivotal role ensuring the safety of residents and visitors to Natchitoches Parish by providing the support services, which connects the citizens experiencing emergencies with emergency services via the use of one, easy to remember and simple to use 3-digit number, 9-1-1. The Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 District provides the equipment and systems necessary to receive 9-1-1 calls from the nearly 40,000 residents of the parish, as well as the ever-increasing numbers of visitors to the area. We are proud to serve as "Natchitoches Parish's Gateway to Public Safety Services".

Find out more at www.natchitoches911.org.