

NEWS RELEASE

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Natchitoches Parish Communications District

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Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 Moves Closer to Locating Cell Phone Callers...

Natchitoches, LA., October 16, 2013 — It's a dark rainy night, and you are traveling down I-49 when suddenly your vehicle loses traction, slides off the roadway and down an embankment. You are not seriously injured, but alone and frightened. Luckily, you are able to find your cell phone in the confusion, but as you dial 9-1-1, you realize that although you have traveled this route many times in the past, tonight because of the stress of your current situation, you do not know where you are! This scenario is a common one that occurs frequently across our nation.

During its monthly meeting on October 15, 2013, the Natchitoches Parish Communications District received an update from 9-1-1 Director Willis Carter on efforts to implement 9-1-1 Phase 2, cellular location services in Natchitoches Parish. Carter reported to the Board of Commissioners that the District is preparing its official request to AT&T for extended Automatic Location Identification database modifications, which will accommodate wireless E9-1-1- Phase 2 coordinates. After the Enhanced 9-1-1 Phase II wireless service is implemented, when a citizen dials 9-1-1 from a cell phone, depending upon the cellular carrier and the citizen's phone, the 9-1-1 system will receive location data. This data is utilized by the public safety mapping system, which supports both the Natchitoches Police Department and the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's department to pinpoint the caller's physical location.

There is a onetime charge to the Communications District for the implementation of Phase 2 location services, and the District will incur reoccurring monthly charges after the service is installed. The implementation period for this new service will be six months.

When asked how this could affect 9-1-1 services in Natchitoches Parish, Commission chair, Larry Atteridge responded: "This will be an important step for Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 in that it will add one more tool that can be used by emergency call takers to help locate our citizens in times of emergency."

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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.