

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the ETSB?

The Emergency Telephone Systems Board or ETSB is a not-for-profit government agency, voted into existence by referendum when 911 was voted in by the citizens of Jersey County. The ETSB is responsible for overseeing and implementing 911 services in Jersey County.

Why are new addresses needed for 911?

New addresses were needed because the existing addresses were neither uniform nor consistent throughout the county. Also, rural routes do not represent a physical address for residences or business, but a route taken and a mail drop source. Because 911 deals with sending responders to a specific address, a uniform and specific method to determine the location of callers was needed.

How is the addressing system laid out?

The ETSB is using the same format as the rural reference system in that a point of origin is located in the southwestern corner of the county. As one travels north and east in the county the numbers increase, each mile representing another jump in the first two digits of the address. The primary difference is that instead of starting at 000 by 000, the start point was set as 10,000 by 10,000, allowing for a uniform 5 digits throughout the county.

Why are 5-digit addresses needed?

Jersey County does not have an ordinance or resolution restricting land development, therefore there isn't a guideline as to how many times a stretch of land may be subdivided. The ETSB decided that a format which would cover a maximum number of homes per mile was needed. With 5 digits each mile of road is capable of supporting a theoretical maximum of 1,000 homes (0-998 on one side of the road and 1-999 on the other side). The addresses can be thought of as a mile marker and then an equal 1,000th division of a mile. The system can also be seen as the first three digits representing a block number and the last two as house number.

Why don't the cities have 5-digit numbers?

According to Illinois law, municipalities have the right to self-determination in road names and house numbers, therefore by being an incorporated area, or a municipality, they are responsible for setting and determining an addressing system. The ETSB has been tasked with determining and implementing a uniform addressing system for the unincorporated or non-municipal areas. These areas also include areas that may already have addresses but yet do not fit into the uniform system for the entire county. In specific the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/11-80-18 and 11-80-19 (West 1994)) plainly and unambiguously vest the authority to regulate street names and building and lot numbers within the corporate boundaries of a municipality in the corporate authorities thereof:

"The corporate authorities of each municipality may regulate the numbering of buildings and lots. No change in the numbering of buildings and lots shall be effective until 30 days after the election authorities having jurisdiction in the area in which such numbering is changed and the post office branch serving that area have been notified by the

corporate authority initiating such action of the change in writing by certified or registered mail." (Emphasis added.)

"The corporate authorities of each municipality may name originally and then may change the name of any street, avenue, alley, or other public place. No change in the name of any street, avenue, alley or other public place shall be effective until 30 days after the election authorities having jurisdiction in the area in which the name of the public place is changed and the post office branch serving that area have been notified by the corporate authority initiating such action of the change in writing by certified or registered mail." (Emphasis added.)

What happens if a municipality that has a different addressing system annexes me?

According to Illinois law the municipality has the right to use the existing address or to issue an address, which conforms, to their system of addressing.

I got an address notification and my name was wrong or misspelled, do I need a new notification?

Not necessarily, the primary focus of the address notification is to get the rural route and box information tied with a more permanent structure number. The database that will be used as the backbone of the 911 system will come from updated telephone records. As citizens inform the telephone companies of the new 911 address by using the address change area of the billing statement, 911 will have its records corrected as the companies update their records.

What if the route number or box number is wrong on the notification?

Call the 911 office to start the correction process.

I got two address notifications for one box number, but they are different from each other and, I don't have a reason to have two addresses. What should I do?

Call the 911 office and notify them of the problem. Often a mistype or some other kind of error is the reason for the duplicate number. The 911 office will be able to start a correction process.

I am building a new structure on my property and will have a different telephone number for that place do I need another 911 address, and if so, how do I get one?

Call the 911 office, and arrange a time for an address to be assigned.

Why was GPS used to determine my address?

The Global Positioning System was used to determine to a high accuracy the location of structures and driveways in the county. Of the various systems that could be used to determine the location GPS was the easiest, economical, and most reliable system available to the ETSB. The Global Positioning System was also used to create maps of the roads in the county.