



COUNTY OF BLAIR

Addressing FAQ's



What is a Physical 911 Address?

A physical 911 address can be called a physical address, 911 address, or street address, and in many cases serves as the first line of a location's mailing address. A physical 911 address consists of a house number, a roadway name, and any sub-address identifier *i.e.* 123 Main St Apt 101. They represent a real physical location along a named roadway. For this reason 911 addresses **cannot move**. Each address is calculated for a particular location along a roadway.

How are 911 Addresses Calculated?

Each 911 address is calculated using the following steps. First, each roadway is assigned an address range. This range is determined by dividing the distance of the roadway by a pre-determined interval. The interval is the number of feet between each available address along the length of the roadway. Each roadway is broken down into a left and a right side, based on the direction the numbers are increasing. The odd and even numbers are assigned to separate sides of the roadway. To determine an address the side of the road determines if the number will be odd or even, and the distance the driveway/access is from the start of the roadway determines the address number. For more information on how addresses are derived reference *Blair County Street Naming and Addressing Guide (SNAG) section III*

Who is Responsible for Addressing?

Although the Blair County GIS Department (BCGIS) maintains all 911 addressing data for the County, the municipalities are granted addressing authority by the Commonwealth. In 2019 many municipalities formally delegated their addressing authority for house numbering to the County. The municipalities retain authority to name roads. The following municipalities have not named the County as their addressing agent: Bellwood Borough, Catharine Township, Duncansville Borough, Juniata Township, Newry Borough, Taylor Township, and Tunnelhill Borough.

What do I do With a Newly Assigned Address?

The new address recipient should consider the address valid. If it replaces a previous address the recipient should immediately notify all correspondents of the address change. Refer to the *Change of Address Tips & Considerations* guide for help in making a list of whom to notify.

Why Should I Post My Address on My House and Mailbox?

You should post your physical 911 address on both your house and your mailbox, if separate from your house. 911 addresses are used for both mail delivery and emergency response, and because of this they should be posted in both locations. The address posted on a structure should be consistent with any local ordinance (City/Township/Borough), and be visible day or night (reflective or illuminated), and be visible from the opposing side of the roadway. Other situations require additional considerations and can be found in the *SNAG section III.G*.

What if I Use a Post Office Box Instead of a Mailbox, Should I Still Post My Address?

It is important that you post your 911 address as described above so emergency responders know they are in the correct location. If you want to receive packages at your address instead of at the post office, you will need to contact the GIS office so that we can assist you in getting your address into the USPS database. Most third-party delivery services use the USPS' system to verify addresses.

No One Can Find Me with Their GPS, Will Emergency Responders Be Able to Find Me?

Yes, the 911 Dispatch Center has all of the information needed to locate your address. To learn how you can help improve third-party GPS data please refer to the *Updating Commercial GPS Map Data* document. This resource will help you submit updates to commonly used location apps and mapping service. Updating these apps and maps can help others find your location.