

## PRESS RELEASE- PUBLIC EDUCATION

By: Sheri Gartner, LaMoure County Director of Emergency Services

### BE PREPARED: 911 ADDRESSES

In an emergency, seconds count. Time spent by responders searching for your house can make the difference between life and death in medical emergencies. The time can also affect saving or losing property in a fire, or apprehending or losing suspects involved in criminal activity.

In order to cut down on response time, there are several things you can do. First, know your 911 address. If it is hard to remember, post it next to every phone in your house. If you have a cordless phone, consider taping the address to the handset so it is always with you.

If you live in the country, know the directions to your house from the nearest town. Be aware that LaMoure County 911 is answered by State Radio in Bismarck, so they will not know local landmarks. You will need to give them directions using how many miles in each direction from the town. Do not assume local responders know where you live. The volunteers are sometimes new in the area, or have just not been past your house before.

Post your address so responders can see it. If you live in a town, make sure you have house numbers that are visible from the street in front of your house. If you live in the country, post your address by the driveway off the main road. Many times, this can be done at minimal cost using reflective sticker lettering and numbering on your mail box. Be aware that not all intersections in the county are marked with street signs, so consider including the street number, and family name, if there is enough space.

Finally, if you need emergency assistance from the ambulance, fire department or law enforcement, do not hesitate to call 911 yourself from the phone number where you are located, if it is safe to do so. Sometimes people will call a friend, relative or neighbor instead and ask them to call 911. This can cause a delay in getting help because the other person may not know your exact address, or if the person is out of our area, their 911 call may ring into a different dispatch center and will have to be transferred to State Radio for proper dispatching of our emergency responders.

Please take the time to review these safety tips and prepare yourself and your residence in case you are ever in need of emergency assistance. If you have questions you can contact me, Sheri Gartner, at LaMoure County Emergency Management (701) 883-5301 ext 236.