



Dear Mayor & Councillors,

Farm accidents can occur in the most remote locations, making it difficult for first responders to easily locate the emergency. We have found that there is a flaw in the first response system - not all rural and farm property entrances have civic address signage.

Farms are getting bigger, and farmers are farming land further from their home farms. If an accident is to occur in a farm field, how can a farmer identify where they are? The next 911 number could be kilometers away and points of reference are meaningless to the person on the other end of the call.

Not just farmers, but all rural landowners are affected by this. Hunting camps, sugarbushes, woodlots, walking trails – they could all benefit from having a number to identify their location.

The most important benefit of this project is that first responders will be able to get to the scene of an accident quicker, and in turn, be able to help at the scene more effectively. We have spoken to many first responders, and all have described various cases of confusion in getting to an accident scene.

Those first responders also confirmed that an exact address is the most helpful element in getting to the emergency. While cell phones do have GPS trackers – that system is not reliable and can fail in remote areas. A sign in the ground is the most permanent address marker and is the official basis of the emergency response system.

We are also confident that 911 signs will also benefit the community in non-emergency scenarios. If someone needs to call in for a burn permit, they can give an address. If a farmer is hiring someone to harvest their corn field, they can offer an address. The address could be used for community events as well, such as plowing matches, maple syrup festivals, and weddings.

Finally, please keep in mind, the civic address system has been in place for decades. Homes and businesses with infrastructure have been able to utilize the system that entire time – while farm businesses, whose work is often remote and isolating, have not had this advantage. Our businesses cover large geographies, further and further from the home farm. Its only fair that we have the same access to the emergency response system as everyone else.

Thank you for your interest in FARM 911: The Emily Project.

Received from

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