Executive Summary
Street addresses on the UAF campus do not conform to national standards for addressing or to Fairbanks North Star Borough code. As a result, the location of a person reporting an emergency on a cellular phone cannot be readily paired with a physical street address by 911 dispatchers. UAF is responsible for the safety of employees, students, residents, and campus visitors. Therefore, UAF will be assigning new addresses to many UAF buildings beginning August 2017 to bring them in line with national standards. This document explains the considerations leading to this decision.

Background
Two technological changes have driven changes to national standards for addressing. First, emergency services dispatching is now primarily electronic, via Computer Aided Dispatching systems, with only confusing calls dispatched manually. Second, 80% of all 911 calls are made via cellular phone. Because cellular phones are not associated with a particular building and many callers do not know or are unable to communicate the address of the building from which they are calling, it is imperative that emergency responders be able to identify the caller’s location immediately. The 911 computer aided dispatch system (CAD) utilizes latitude and longitude information provided by the cellular device or carrier to identify which building the call is originating from. The CAD attempts to associate the caller’s location with a building address within a range of addresses created for each street. The CAD then identifies the nearest emergency response unit(s) and the dispatcher dispatches the unit(s). If the CAD is unable to correlate the caller’s location and address, significant delays result because a dispatcher must process the call manually, identify the nearest unit(s), and dispatch the responders.

National standards for addressing have been updated to support next generation enhanced 911 response. Accordingly, the Fairbanks North Star Borough has updated Title 21 of the Borough Code to require that addresses throughout the borough be brought into alignment with national addressing standards. The new FNSB addressing grid assigns an address to every parcel in the borough based on its distance north, south, east, or west from a reference point near Birch Hill.
UAF’s Troth Yeddha Campus’ Addresses

In 2010, the Borough began geo-referencing UAF buildings on the Troth Yeddha campus to the FNSB address grid. As can be seen in the below example, historic addresses on campus do not necessarily follow any apparent pattern or range.

Ideally, addresses on a street would have odd numbers on one side of the street, even numbers on the other side of the street, and would be sequential. Also, because many of UAF’s addresses are decades old, they do not align with a numbering pattern that starts from Birch Hill.

UAF Partnerships Increase the Need for Conformity

The Fairbanks Emergency Communication Center (FECC) receives all cellular 911 calls in the borough. Additionally, in 2013, UAF contracted with the FECC for all of our fire and ambulance dispatching. 911 calls from UAF desk phones are routed to the UAF Police Department, and subsequently transferred to the FECC if a fire or medical emergency is reported. This transfer occurs rapidly with the caller in constant voice contact with the dispatcher.

Although nearly all 911 calls are made on a cellular phone, and cell phones can transmit rough latitude and longitude data, a specific address is also very helpful to police, fire, and ambulance personnel in pinpointing an individual’s exact location. Although UAF Fire and UAF Police are very familiar with campus addresses, the FECC CAD and dispatchers are not. Additionally, we depend on the Alaska State Troopers and neighboring fire and emergency medical agencies for assistance when a significant emergency occurs, necessitating that we jointly be able to quickly locate and communicate the address as efficiently as possible. For these reasons, it
is desirable that UAF use building addresses that comply with the FNSB addressing grid and the FECC CAD system.

**Solution**

UAF is proceeding with readdressing all buildings to conform with the FNSB grid. This solution should provide several important benefits:

- Fully complies with current and next-generation enhanced 911 standards
- Conforms to Title 21 of FNSB Code
- Provides for a caller’s location to be immediately identified and all 911 calls to be rapidly and automatically processed
- Leads to reduced response time to emergencies by UAF and borough emergency service personnel
- Enables location-based emergency notification

There will be up-front expenses and inconvenience related to the transition to the new numbering system. However, these costs will be offset by the benefits.

**Implementation**

The early stages of implementation are underway. New addresses being verified with the Borough and are expected to be finalized soon. We will begin notifying units of their new assigned addresses shortly thereafter. Planning is currently underway for new street signage and building numbers. Information is being prepared for distribution to all units and residents. Work will begin soon to cross-reference existing UAF police records with historical records. Units should be thinking about updating online resources and printed media such as letterhead, flyers, and business cards, and the new addressing will need to be communicated to vendors, particularly delivery services like UPS and FedEx.