Why do we need to name our road and have an address?

Roads are named and address numbers are assigned to ensure that your home or business can be quickly located in an emergency. Property owners also must have an address in order to have power installed, get a building permit, and receive mail at their house.

What authorizes Jefferson County to name roads?

Like other Washington counties, Jefferson County has adopted an Enhanced 911 Emergency Locator Ordinance that establishes criteria and processes for naming roads and assigning addresses. The E911 Ordinance is contained in the Jefferson County Code Chapter 12.20.

What starts the road naming process? start-

Similar to many other rural counties, the Jefferson County E911 Ordinance states that no more than 3 addresses may be assigned on an unnamed road. The application for a 4th address requires the road to be named. An application for an address on an unnamed road that extends more than 1,000 feet from a named road also requires the road to be named. The address applicant becomes the road naming petitioner and is responsible for paying the road naming fees. Property owners may petition to name a road before an application is made for the 4th address.

How does the County assign address numbers?

Address numbers (also known as emergency locator numbers or fire numbers) correspond directly to the milepost of a named road where an unnamed road or driveway intersects it. The last digit of the address indicates which side of the named road the site is located on and gives some indication of the relative distance to the site (the larger the last digit, the further the site is down the driveway or unnamed road). For the last digit, even numbers are assigned to the right side of the named road and odd numbers to the left, traveling from the named road’s origin.

For example, a residence located at Milepost 1.25 on the right side of Evergreen Road would be addressed as 1250 Evergreen Road. A house on the left side at the same Milepost would be addressed as 1251 Evergreen Road. Three houses located on an unnamed road intersecting Evergreen Road at Milepost 1.75 on the right would likely have addresses of 1750, 1752, and 1754.

When a road receives a name, existing sites on the road must be re-addressed so that the addresses will indicate the distance in hundredths of a mile from the origin of the newly-named road. Each new address number is assigned by the addressing technician to ensure accuracy and conformance with the E911 Ordinance.
ROAD NAMING & ADDRESSING (continued)

What is the process for selecting road names?

A property owner (petitioner) proposes 3 names ranked in order of preference. The petitioner should discuss proposed road names with other property owners on the road and get as many property owner signatures as possible in support of the petition. Other property owners on the road may also propose names if they don’t agree with the petitioner’s choices.

The proposed names are reviewed by JEFFCOMM (the County’s emergency dispatch department) and the Fire District to determine whether they meet the E911 Ordinance criteria and ensure they won’t duplicate an existing name.

The road is assigned the highest-ranked name that is determined to meet the criteria and that is supported by the other property owners. If no name choice meets the criteria or none is supported by the other property owners, the petitioner may be asked to submit a new petition with different name choices.

What are appropriate road names?

The E911 Ordinance adopts nationally-recognized criteria for road names. Proposed names cannot duplicate or sound similar to existing names. They cannot be difficult to pronounce or be long, complicated, or hyphenated. Obscene or vulgar expressions are also not acceptable. These criteria ensure that emergency responders can easily locate your residence or business.

There are a great number of acceptable road names. Sometimes it just takes a little thought and discussion with your neighbors to come up with a good one.

What if I don’t want my road named or address changed?

There is no way to “opt out” of the E911 addressing system. Please remember that naming a road and assigning a correct address ensures that emergency responders will be able to locate and protect your family and property and the families and property of your neighbors. The long-term benefits of having a systematic addressing system are recognized nationally. As more and more people move to the County, it becomes increasingly important to maintain a consistent addressing system.

An address change can cause a temporary inconvenience, similar to moving to a new residence. When roads are named and addresses are re-assigned, the County notifies the Post Master of the change. If you are using your site address to receive mail, you will need to fill out the change of address paperwork that can be obtained from your Post Office or mail carrier.

How can I get a copy of the E911 Ordinance?

You may obtain a copy of the Ordinance from the Department of Community Development at 360.379.4450 or view it on-line at www.co.jefferson.wa.us under Jefferson County Code Chapter 12.20.