

Using the Address Mapping Assistant

Purpose of the Address Mapping Assistant

When creating addresses for incidents with the ESSS Dispatch program, some addresses can bring a level of difficulty with them:

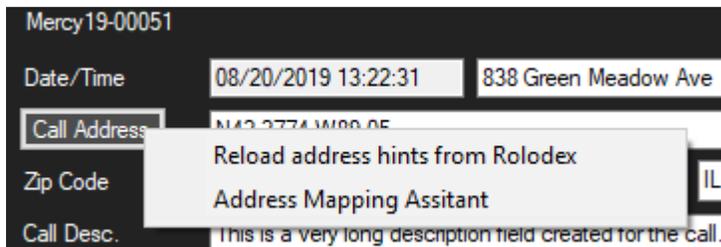
- Properly formatting the address data
- **Correctly spelling the street name**
- **Determining if the provided address is valid using certainty factors**
- **Reducing confusion for notification recipients when they check the maps for the specific address.**
- Creating the correct text for a reference to an intersection
- Determine latitude/longitude of a location for helicopter references to landing zones
- Identifying the actual name of the street/highway for the incident. (Wisconsin has terrible road naming rules)

The Address Mapping Assistant has been developed to assist with each of the identified issues.

Accessing the Address Mapping Assistant

In the Run Information window, there is a button assigned to the Call Address data field. Clicking this button with a left mouse button brings up the Rolodex data window, as it always has in the past.

Right clicking this button allows two functions: reloading the Rolodex data (if it was changed by a dispatcher on another terminal) and calling for the Address Mapping Assistant.



By selecting the Address Mapping Assistant from the context menu for the Call Address button, the dispatcher is presented with the form that processes mapping and addressing functions.

How to Use the Address Mapping Assistant

The Address Mapping Assistant form has multiple areas of information/interaction.

Primary Location Data

The upper left corner of the form has the zip code, city and state, brought forward from the Run Information window. Entering a zip code will cause the software to locate the appropriate city/state data for those fields.

Below the zip code is a tabbed section for Address, Intersection and Lat/Long data formats. The software selects the appropriate tab based upon what data was available when the form was opened. If the run had existing address data, that will be populated on the form as well.

Use of each tab will be described later in this document.

Location Result Data

Below the tabbed control are the results of the validation of the provided address data.

Address Line – This line fills in with the best fit match of address information based upon looking up the entered data. When providing addresses, you would hope to find a certainty result of 100%: house number above that line. For intersections, you would hope to find 100%: street certainty result.

Below the street address are fields for the properly spelled city, state, zip code and county/parish identifiers for the address.

Latitude/Longitude – This data is the computed lat/long information for the address, used by the mapping software to plot the location.

Form Termination

At the bottom of the form are two buttons. Cancel will close the form, returning you to the main dispatch program, without accepting any of the modifications applied within this form.

The Accept button will change its title to indicate the sort of data you're using for the address. It will be titled either "Accept Address", "Accept Intersection" or "Accept Lat/Lng". Pressing this button will return address data to the dispatch program which will be applied to the current incident data.

Map and Map format selector

The map format selector is a drop down list that will allow the user to choose different map data providers for use in the map control. Some of these format providers don't return usable results, but have been left in the selection list until official determinations have been provided by the map data providers. Typically, a Bing Hybrid Map is the best layout. It provides street naming, route numbers, etc. along with actual satellite map information showing buildings, parks, etc.

Map Control

The map control shows the actual map information for the address information you've provided. As you change the address information, the map will update its display, providing a very useful sanity check for the entered address.

If you hold the left mouse button on the map, while moving the mouse, you can pan the map display around to different areas.

Moving the mouse wheel forward and backward will increase and decrease the zoom level of the map.

Finally, double-clicking anywhere on the map will cause that location to become the actual location you wish to use. The software will, after double clicking on the map, do its best to resolve the location to a physical address.

The map double-click resolves a very real issue that was experienced by dispatchers in the past. For a specific incident, the dispatcher entered data as provided for the incident address. Searching the geocode information for that address provided a reference to a location that was tens of miles away from the actual incident. It took many hours working with the address and the returned geocode information until the correct references to Cty Hwy K resolved correctly. With the map double-click, the exact address, properly formatted is immediately returned, as long as the dispatcher knows where that location is.

Using the Tabbed Windows for Data Entry

Address Tab

When entering addresses, begin entering them as you would normally type them. As you are entering the data, the software is finding "best match" references, and populating them into a list of choices you can select. As you enter more and more data for the address, the list is reduced to fewer choices. Once you've found a reasonable match for your address and selected it from the list, the data is processed one more time for validity and the results become available in the lower part of the form for your review.

Intersection Tab

When entering data for intersections, it is important to verify you have the correct city/state selected at the top of the form.

For each street name, simply provide the name, without directional prefixes or road type suffixes.

For example, East Riverside Boulevard would be entered simply as riverside. North Second Street would be entered only as 2nd.

Once you tab out of the street name fields, the software will try to determine the address reference. If you enter street names that do not intersect, you will see a certainty factor of less than 100% to the street level. A valid intersection will show 100% certainty.

Lat/Long Tab

This tab allows for the processing of latitude/longitude data. There is no need to enter a degree symbol, and the numeric values are degrees with precision to 4 decimal places.

Data entered to the Lat/Lng as Text field should have numbers prefixed with their hemisphere reference characters. For example, in Illinois, the northern and western hemispheres apply. Therefore, latitude would always start with N, and longitude would always start with W.

The individual text boxes for Latitude and Longitude convert those letters to signs to apply to the degree numbers. The Northern hemisphere is always a positive degree number. The Western hemisphere is always a negative degree number. Those numbers are what get fed to the map for positioning display.

If you accept the Lat/Lng data as your address reference for the incident, the street data which was calculated from the coordinates is placed into the Location Name text box for your incident.

Debug Info Tab

This tab provides data that is only useful to the developers. However, as the feature comes into use, there may be times that data from this tab is requested to assist the developers in debugging any issues that might arise.