

The concept of a nationwide telephone number was developed in Great Britain over 30 years ago. In this country, it was first recommended by the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice in 1967. In 1974, there were more than 360 "911" systems in the U.S., serving over 25 million people.

As the counties continue to upgrade their EMS systems, the benefits of the 911 systems are becoming more obvious. 911 is now working in Cheraw, Florence, Lexington, and Pageland. Mullins, Spartanburg and Chesterfield will convert to 911 next year.

A central dispatch system for all emergency and public safety services is the key. When a community comes to ask you about a telephone system to handle central dispatch, please be ready to discuss 911 with them as the next step.

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I would not ask you to be mindful of the benefits to be derived from the 911 system if my staff and I were not willing to become knowledgeable of the problems you will encounter in implementing 911.

The Division of Health and Social Development, Office of the Governor, has been assigned a coordinating role in the effort to promote the use of 911 as the nationwide Emergency Medical Services System reporting number.

Jerry Stoddard (president of association) has been asked to name a committee from the association to work with us.

As a group, you provide service to half of the geographic area of the State. For example, the Spartanburg County proposals includes 14 central offices, six of which are owned by independents.

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As public-minded citizens yourselves, you are aware that communications is the key to raising the level of all services, especially health care delivery.

(Ad Lib comments on Administration Programs)

--Judicial Reform

--Education

--State Budget--Management

--Agency Coordination