

THREE NUMBERS

Data Centers #12 · Teens 10-15

with Dess, the Infrastructure Guard and Lena Ashgrove of Channel 5



CREDITS

Three Numbers · Data Centers #12 · Teen edition (ages 10–15)

Story and production: GOTB Consulting, Chicago

Lead: Dess · Heroes: Gridline, Commons, Undertow, The Auditor · On screen: Lena Ashgrove,
Channel 5

AI-GENERATED ART, FICTIONAL CHARACTERS

All characters, the town of Prairie Bend and Channel 5 are fictional. Any resemblance to real people is a coincidence. No real logos are shown. Real institutions are described by role. Every number in this book was checked against public sources before printing; see 'Sources' near the end.

911 is for emergencies only. Know your address, call if you can, and text only where text-to-911 is supported.

© 2026 GOTB Consulting. All rights reserved.

THE CREW



DESS

Our lead. Connects the systems.



GRIDLINE

Hero of the grid.



UNDERTOW

Knows every pipe, and the text rules.



THE AUDITOR

Sees and reports. Cannot stop anything.

THREE DIGITS



DESS

EVERY SYSTEM THIS ARC (TUNNELS, PIPES, HOSPITALS) ENDS AT THE
SAME THREE DIGITS.



240 MILLION CALLS

THE AUDITOR

REPORTED

AN ESTIMATED 240 MILLION 911 CALLS A YEAR IN THE U.S. IN MANY AREAS, 80% OR MORE COME FROM CELL PHONES.

FACT FILE

An estimated 240 million 911 calls are made in the U.S. each year; in many areas 80% or more come from wireless devices.

Source: National Emergency Number Association (NENA), "9-1-1 Statistics"



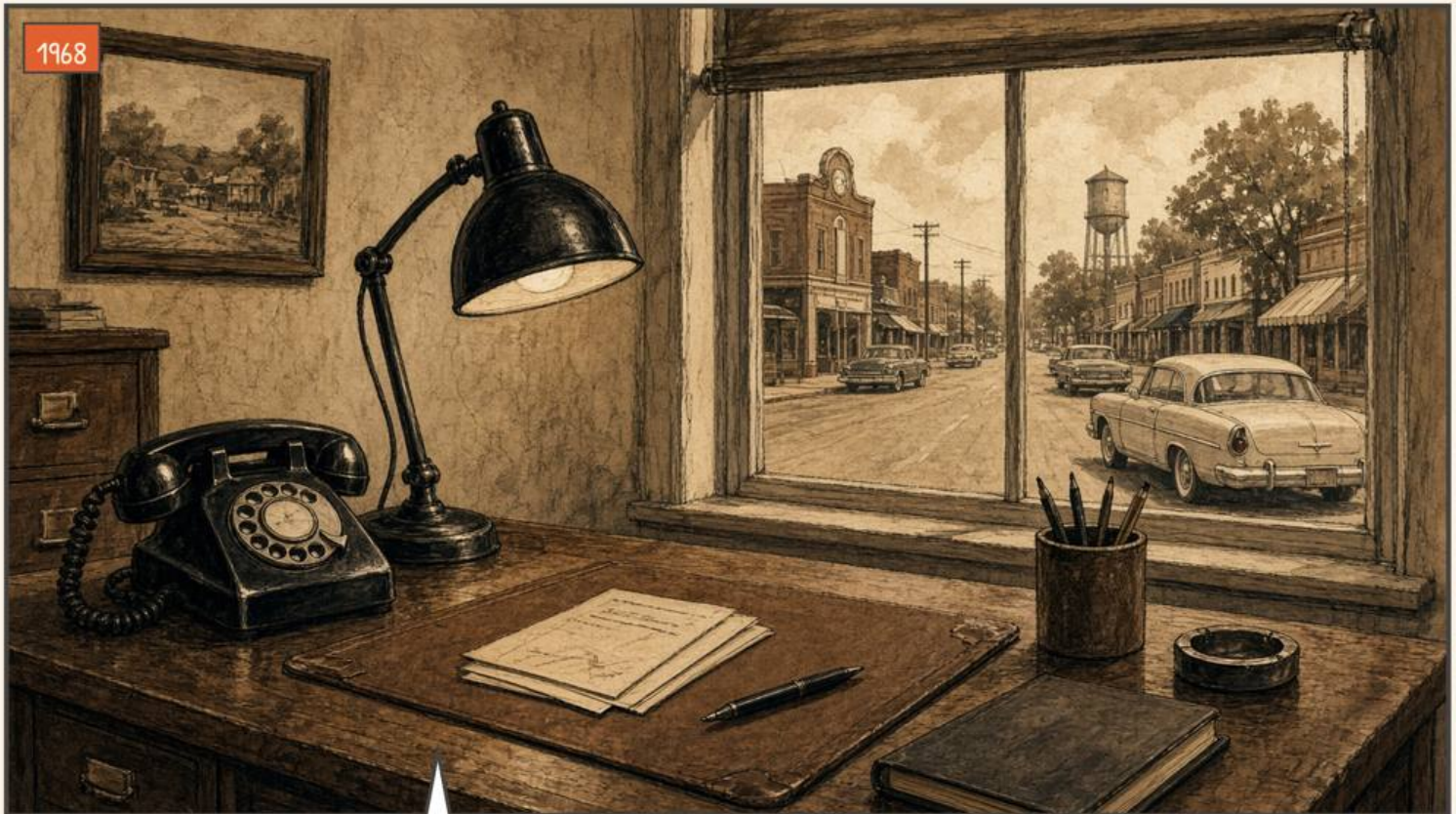
LENA (ON SCREEN)

THOSE CALLS LAND AT ABOUT 5,748 ANSWERING CENTERS, CALLED PSAPS (2021 COUNT).

FACT FILE

As of February 2021, the U.S. had 5,748 primary and secondary PSAPs.

Source: National Emergency Number Association (NENA), "9-1-1 Statistics"



DESS

FIRST 911 CALL: HALEYVILLE, ALABAMA, 1968. IT TOOK UNTIL 1999 FOR A FEDERAL LAW TO MAKE 911 THE UNIVERSAL NUMBER.

FACT FILE

The first 911 call was placed in Haleyville, Alabama, in 1968. The Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 took effect Oct 26, 1999, directing the FCC to make 911 the universal emergency number for all telephone services.

Source: FCC, "911 and E911 Services" (updated Sept 15, 2026)



THE AUDITOR

LANDLINES SEND NUMBER AND ADDRESS. CELL CALLS SEND COORDINATES, USUALLY ACCURATE TO 50 TO 300 METERS. THAT'S NOT YOUR APARTMENT NUMBER.

FACT FILE

Enhanced 911 (E911) automatically reports the number and location of calls from wireline phones. Wireless Phase I gives the callback number and cell site; Phase II gives latitude and longitude, generally accurate to within 50 to 300 meters depending on technology.

Source: FCC, "911 and E911 Services" (updated Sept 15, 2026)



NO 9 FIRST

LENA (ON SCREEN)

A 2019 FEDERAL RULE: HOTEL AND CAMPUS PHONES MUST DIAL 911 DIRECTLY, NO '9' FIRST, AND ALERT THE FRONT DESK.

FACT FILE

Kari's Law rules (adopted Aug 2019) require multi-line phone systems, such as in hotels and campuses, to let users dial 911 directly without a prefix and to notify a central point like a front desk. RAY BAUM'S Act rules require "dispatchable location" (street address, floor, room) with 911 calls where technically feasible.

Source: FCC, "911 and E911 Services" (updated Sept 15, 2026)



THE AUDITOR

ANOTHER RULE REQUIRES 'DISPATCHABLE LOCATION': STREET ADDRESS, FLOOR, ROOM, WHERE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE.

FACT FILE

Kari's Law rules (adopted Aug 2019) require multi-line phone systems, such as in hotels and campuses, to let users dial 911 directly without a prefix and to notify a central point like a front desk. RAY BAUM'S Act rules require "dispatchable location" (street address, floor, room) with 911 calls where technically feasible.

Source: FCC, "911 and E911 Services" (updated Sept 15, 2026)



UNDERTOW

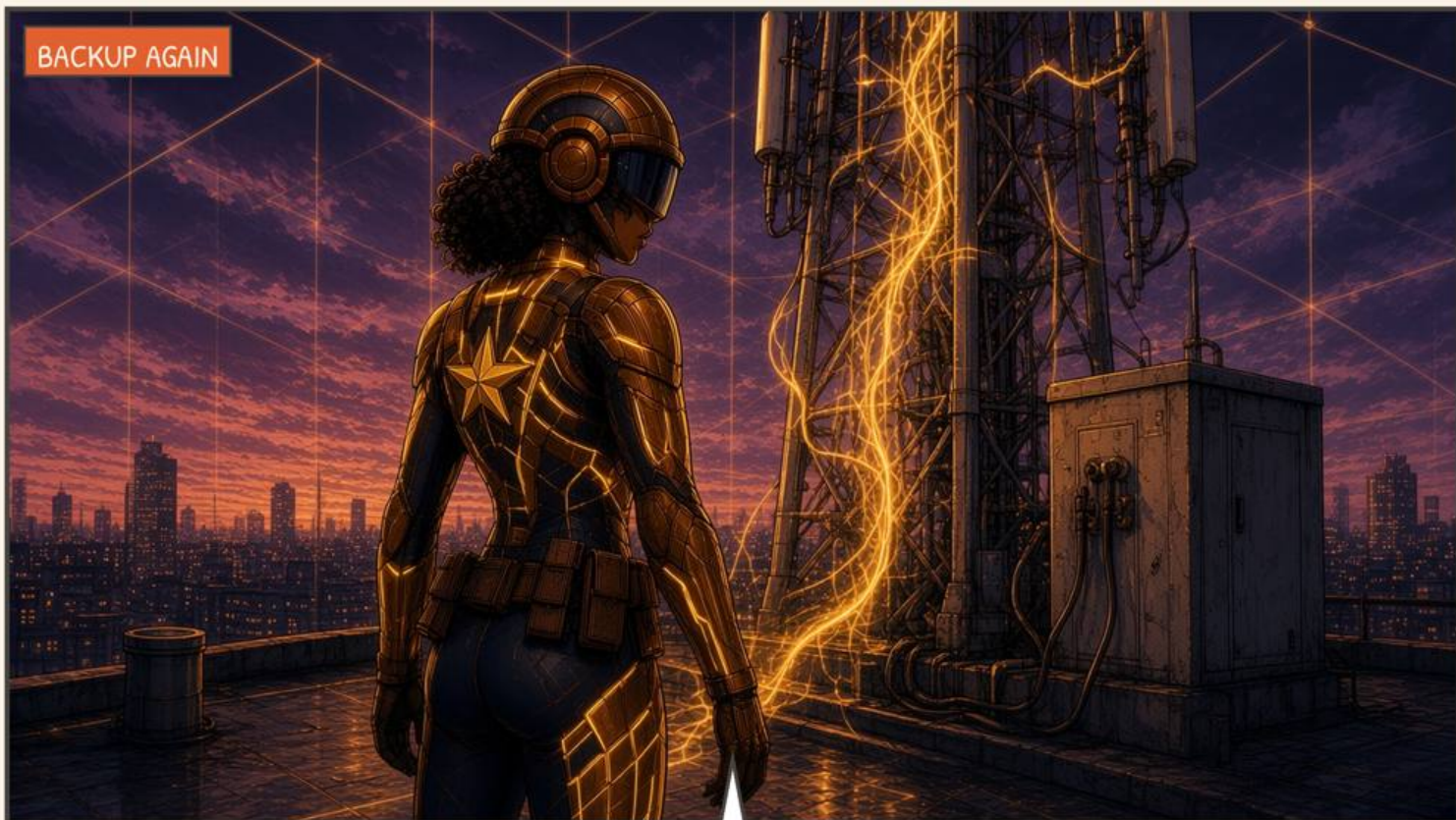
TEXT-TO-911 WORKS ONLY IN SOME PLACES. CALL IF YOU CAN. IF TEXT ISN'T SUPPORTED, YOU'LL GET A BOUNCE-BACK TELLING YOU TO CALL.

FACT FILE

Text-to-911 is available only in certain locations; always make a voice call if you can. Where text isn't available, carriers must send an automatic "bounce-back" message telling you to contact emergency services another way.

Source: FCC, "Text to 911: What You Need to Know"

BACKUP AGAIN



GRIDLINE

TOWERS, DISPATCH CENTERS, RADIOS: ALL ON THE GRID, ALL NEEDING BACKUP. SAME LESSON AS THE HOSPITAL.



LENA (ON SCREEN)

IN CHICAGO, ONE OFFICE HANDLES 9-1-1, 3-1-1 CITY SERVICES, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, SEVERE WEATHER AND TRAFFIC.

FACT FILE

Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications covers 9-1-1 emergency, 3-1-1 city services, emergency management, severe weather and traffic management.

Source: City of Chicago, Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC)



COMMONS

POTHOLE? 311. FIRE? 911. USING 911 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES CAN DELAY HELP FOR SOMEONE WHO NEEDS IT.

FACT FILE

Dialing 911 connects to a nearby Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) dispatcher trained to route the call to emergency medical, fire and law enforcement. 911 is for emergencies such as a fire, a crime in progress or needing an ambulance; non-emergency use may delay help for others. Some communities use 3-1-1 for non-emergency city services.

Source: FCC, "911 and E911 Services" (updated Sept 15, 2026)



DESS

FASTER LOCATION TECH, MORE DISPATCHERS, STRONGER BACKUP: THEY ALL COST MONEY. WHICH COMES FIRST IS A PUBLIC CHOICE.

ONE SYSTEM



DESS

POWER, WATER, ROADS, RAILS, RUNWAYS, FIBER, PEOPLE, PIPES,
HOSPITALS, A PHONE CALL. IT'S ONE SYSTEM.



DESS

ARC THREE: DONE.

GOTB Consulting works on the infrastructure and procurement behind projects like these.

BY THE NUMBERS

1968

First 911 call, Haleyville, Alabama. (FCC)

1999

Federal law makes 911 the universal emergency number. (FCC)

240 MILLION

Estimated U.S. 911 calls a year. (NENA, Reported)

80%+

Share from cell phones in many areas. (NENA, Reported)

5,748

Primary and secondary answering points, Feb 2021. (NENA)

50-300 M

Typical accuracy of cell-phone coordinates. (FCC)

TWO SIDES

The strongest case on each side, labeled. Nonpartisan.

FASTER TECH

Better location data and text-to-911 everywhere.

MORE PEOPLE

Hire and keep enough trained dispatchers.

STRONGER BACKUP

Power and radios that survive the storm.

WHAT ALL SHARE

Help that arrives fast, paid for in the open.

YOUR TURN

Which would you fund first, and why? _____

CALL WORDS

PSAP

Public Safety Answering Point, a 911 center.

E911

Enhanced 911: sends number and location.

DISPATCHABLE LOCATION

Address, floor and room sent with a call.

BOUNCE-BACK

Auto-reply when text-to-911 is unavailable.

3-1-1

City non-emergency services line.

MULTI-LINE SYSTEM

Phones in hotels, offices and campuses.

QUICK QUIZ

1. FIRST 911 CALL?

a) 1968 b) 1999

2. U.S. ANSWERING POINTS (2021)?

a) 5,748 b) 57

3. CELL LOCATION ACCURACY?

a) 50-300 m b) 1 inch

4. POTHOLE IN CHICAGO?

a) 311 b) 911

ANSWERS

1 a · 2 a · 3 a · 4 a

SOURCES

Full list with fact IDs: FACT_BASE.md and NUMBER_CHECK.md (GOTB internal).

FCC

FCC, "911 and E911 Services" (updated Sept 15, 2026)

FCC

FCC, "Text to 911: What You Need to Know"

NATIONAL EMERGENCY NUMBER ASSOCIATION (N

National Emergency Number Association (NENA), "9-1-1 Statistics"

CITY OF CHICAGO

City of Chicago, Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC)

ABOUT GOTB CONSULTING

WHO WE ARE

A Chicago firm working on infrastructure and procurement for the systems communities depend on.

DATA CENTERS

Siting, delivery and community questions.

POWER

Grid connections, substations and lines.

WATER

Supply, treatment and cooling.

PUBLIC WORKS

Roads, pipes and public spaces.

THE END



POWER, WATER, PIPES, HOSPITALS, A PHONE CALL. ONE SYSTEM.

Next time: more from the Infrastructure Guard.

GOTB CONSULTING • CHICAGO

Data centers • Power • Water • Public works

AI-generated art, fictional characters