The Emergency Response and Military communities require the addition of coordinates, preferably in the USNG format in NextGen 911. You will find this emerging requirement in a new standard currently under review from NFPA for data exchange for the fire service. I can go on at lengths about the basis for this requirement, but here's an abbreviated version:

1. When the landscape is wiped of all means by which traditional navigation is performed – house numbers, streets signs, etc.. – the responder community must rely on coordinates for navigation, reporting, response, and accountability purposes. We are finding that NextGen 911 is significantly enhancing the survivability of 911 systems by providing alternative means of reporting a crisis – phone systems may fail, but a buried cable system and a Wi-Fi hot spot might stay active as was the case during a recent tornado in my community.
2. The military uses USNG and they are a player in nearly every natural disaster. USNG would provide a common language of location between military and civilian resources.
3. USNG is the US standard for ground search and rescue teams and a priority for communicating location by FEMA and DHS
4. Approximately 1/3 of all calls for service received by fire departments did NOT occur at a street address (motor vehicle accidents along a stretch of highway, grass/wild land fires, calls for service at large locations such as a park, industrial complex, or similar).

I would be happy to engage in this dialogue further or contribute to the research effort. My research team and I have been working this issue for more than 5 years in coordination with USGS Emergency Ops, FEMA, DHS, NGA, NFPA, GITA, US Army, USMC, and numerous states. Please let us know how we may contribute to the effort.

Sincerely,

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