

Using the United States National Grid

What is the United States National Grid?

The USNG is an alpha-numeric reference system that overlays the UTM coordinate system. A USNG spatial address is broken down into three parts:

1. Grid Zone Designation (GZD)-for a world-wide unique address. Identifies the longitude zone number and the latitude band letter.
2. 100,000 meter Square Identification-for regional areas. Indicates the 100,000 meter square that is specific to the GZD.
3. Grid Coordinates-for local areas. The UTM grid Easting and Northing point position within the 100,000 meter square.

17R MM 70577 63101

The USNG is uniform in its appearance and usage. The standard for its datum is NAD83, or the international equivalent, WGS84. This allows for multi-agency and multi-departmental communication and interoperability that is required during operations such as Disaster Relief, Search and Rescue and Homeland Security situations.

The USNG Coordinates

Full USNG:

17RMM7057763101

Without GZD

MM70576310

Without GZD and 100,000 m Square ID:

70576310

USNG can be truncated to meet different precision requirements, ranging from 1,000 meters to 1 meter:

Four Digits 7063

Locates a point within a 1000 meter square

Six Digits 705631

Locates a point within a 100 meter square

Eight Digits 70576310

Locates a point within a 10 meter square

Ten Digits 7057763101

Locates a point within a 1 meter square

