

WHAT IS THE U.S. NATIONAL GRID (USNG)?

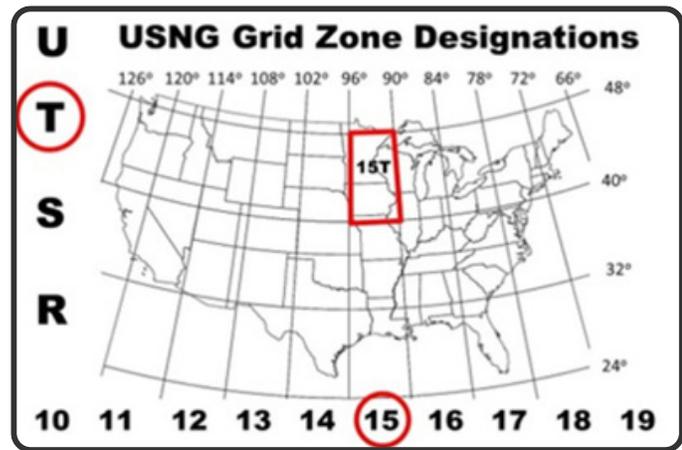
The U.S. National Grid (USNG) is a standardized, grid-based system for describing locations within the United States. USNG is based on the Military Grid Reference System (MGRS), making it globally compatible. It has been a free-to-use, federal geospatial standard since 2001 and endorsed by the following organizations.



How Do I Read U.S. National Grid (USNG)?

15T XN 2766 3955

- “15T” is the Grid Zone Designation.
- “15” refers to a specific east-west column.
- “T” refers to a specific north-south row.



15T XN 2766 3955

- “XN” is the 100-kilometer Square Identification.
- Within the 15T grid zone, “XN” identifies a specific 100-kilometer by 100-kilometer square. This further refines your location within the larger grid zone.

“Pinpointing your location within a 10-meter square, anywhere in the world.”

15T XN 2766 3955

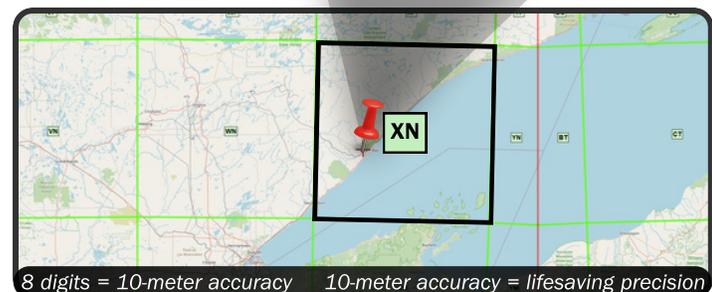
- This is the Easting coordinate. It represents the horizontal distance (in meters) from the southwest corner of the XN square.
- “2766” means you are 27,660 meters east from the left edge of the XN square, or approximately 28% of the square's width to the right.



Emergency Location Marker

15T XN 2766 3955

- This is the Northing coordinate. It represents the vertical distance (in meters) from the southwest corner of the XN square.
- “3955” means you are 39,550 meters north from the bottom edge of the XN square, or approximately 40% of the square's height upwards.



8 digits = 10-meter accuracy 10-meter accuracy = lifesaving precision

PINPOINT YOUR LOCATION: A USNG QUIZ

Instructions:

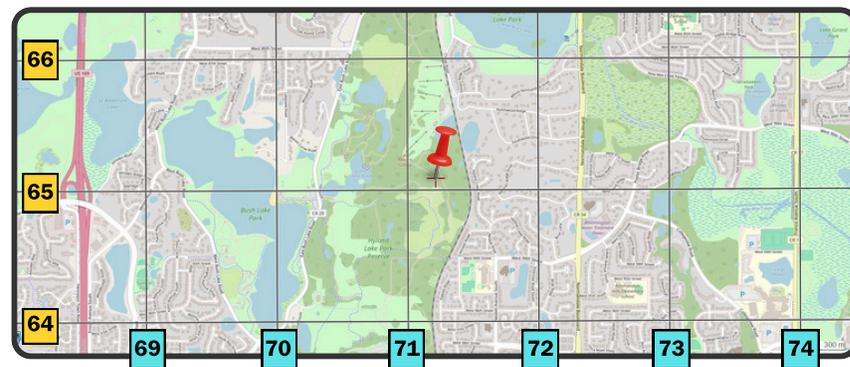
Read each emergency scenario below. For each one, locate the pin 📌 on the accompanying map. Use the U.S. National Grid lines and axis numbers shown to determine the pin's 8-digit coordinate (remember: find the 4-digit Easting first, then the 4-digit Northing). Circle the correct multiple-choice option representing that location.

Scenario 1

Alex, a novice cross-country skier, ambitiously decided to tackle a double black diamond trail at Hyland Lake Park Reserve. Partway through, he fell and injured his leg, leaving him unable to ski back. Alex called 911 but was deep in the park and unsure how to describe the exact location. Fortunately, he had a map app displaying U.S. National Grid coordinates.

Question:

To help rescuers pinpoint his location, what 8-digit USNG coordinate should Alex provide from the map?



- A) 6508 7121
- B) 7430 6810
- C) 7121 6508
- D) 6815 6290

Scenario 2

Jess was hiking the trails at Weedon Island Preserve on a hot day and started feeling dizzy and confused due to heat exhaustion. Unsure of her exact location within the preserve to call for help, she spotted a blue sign nearby – an Emergency Location Marker. It displayed the specific U.S. National Grid digits for that spot.

Question:

According to the scenario, what 8-digit USNG coordinate was on the sign that Jess needed to report to 911?



- A) 4258 8178
- B) 4817 8524
- C) 8178 4258
- D) 2485 1878

Scenario 2: A) 4258 8178
Scenario 1: C) 7121 6508

Answer Key