

Mail Box and House Numbering Guidelines

Emergency 911 Services

Police officers, firefighters, EMS, and other first response emergency personnel say visible house numbers can mean the difference between life and death. A highly visible house number provides a better system for the delivery of emergency services as well as the delivery of mail and other goods. This only works if house numbers are clearly posted and visible, even if you receive your mail at a Post Office Box.

Here are some important guidelines.

- Place numbers on both sides of the mailbox unless on cluster mailboxes where the number is placed on the front.
- Mailbox numbers should be 3 inches high.
- Numbers should be plain block numerals on a background of contrasting color, preferably black on white, or white on black.
- When the property does not have a mailbox, or when the home or building that goes with the mailbox is not clearly identified, the number should be displayed on the house or on a sign or post at the entrance to the driveway.
- Display house numbers in a location visible from the road upon which the address number is assigned and make sure they are large enough to be readable from the road. Numbers on homes and businesses should be 4 inches tall or taller to ensure readability from the road.
- Place numbers on the house when visibility from the road is not blocked by trees or shrubs.
- Private signs or posts that display house numbers at the entrance to driveways where the house is not easily visible should be at a height of at least 3 to 4 feet, with easily readable numbers.
- Do not place numbers on utility poles or county road signs or posts.
- When a property is on a private lane within more than one residence, display numbers at the end of the lane and at the driveways to the homes.

Individual house numbers can be purchased from your local hardware or home improvement center, generally for less than \$1.00 each. Invest \$4-5 in your safety, it could be important someday.

We can't help you unless we can find you!