

Safety Officials Ask Citizens to Go Buy the Numbers

Emergency Crews to Distribute Reflective House Number Plates

It's 1:30 a.m. and the police department gets a report from a woman afraid there is a burglar in her home. She hides in a closet with a cordless phone and dials the dispatcher and gives her address to the dispatcher.

Police arrive quickly to the neighborhood, but have trouble finding the residence because there is no visible house number. This is just an example of the many cases that can be pointed out by members of Twinsburg Police and Fire Departments of the necessity for large reflective numbers on homes and businesses.

“We don't want to risk the safety of an individual or police officer in such a case as above by having to walk around shining a flashlight at each home trying to find the right address,” said Police Chief Johnson. “We prefer that people use at least 3” numbers that are reflective for visibility at night. Many people have only small numbers for mail and paper routes which aren't big enough for us to read at night” the Chief continued.

Fire Chief Allen agrees “We would like people to have the larger two-sided reflective signs to make it easier to find the right home. We want to get the word out to people how important readable numbers are for safety reasons. A \$15 sign or set of numbers isn't much to spend for what could mean the difference between life and death,” Chief Allen said.

Both leaders agree with the adage **“If we can't find you, we can't help you.”**

Signs to Save Lives

Emergency Crews to Distribute Reflective House Number Plates

There's an old joke about how to find a burning home in a rural area. "The fire chief says 'What's the address?' and the people say, 'Just drive down the road and you'll see the smoke,'" Fairford VFD Fire Chief Chris Murphy says.

But to Chief Murphy and many other rural firefighters in the area, finding a home quickly during an emergency is no laughing matter. That's why the Fairford Fire Department and several others recently started distributing reflective metal plates with house numbers. The plates are screwed onto mailboxes or posts so house numbers can be easily spotted at night. Often, house numbers in rural areas can be difficult to find because the homes are set back from the roads.

"Those plates could very well be the difference between life and death," Chief Murphy said. "If we have to drive down a road two or three times to find a house, it could be too late. It's not just for firefighters; The sign also helps rescue vehicles and police find homes quickly."

Order forms are available at many local businesses or by calling the fire station at 829-5616. "These plates make a big difference" Chief Murphy Said. "If you get out on a rural road on a dark rainy night and the houses have no numbers, you can hardly find them. It helps all of us. If we can't find you, we can't help you."

Note: Your local newspaper is always looking for a positive story within the community. Normally, their writers like to write a story in their own words so just call the editor of the paper to let him know that you have a project of interest. Usually, they will do the rest. If not, ask them if you can provide them with a brief article using one of the examples as a guide.