

## WHEN SECONDS COUNT . . .

***First Responders can't help you if they can't find your house.*** The problem is that fire, police and ambulance responders have difficulty locating houses with poorly visible house numbers. This delays response time in emergencies . . . "when seconds count".

Emergency responders need house numbers that are easy to spot, day or night, as an emergency vehicle approaches your house from either direction. The preferred sign is green with 3-inch white letters, like a street sign, and like you have seen around town. It can be mounted on a stake in the lawn, attached to the mailbox, or secured to houses that are close to the street.

Only 10% of the homes have these reflective house numbers. The problem is further complicated by new home construction with new streets and subdivisions. Some homes are set far back, not visible from the street.

Cornwall Community Fire Company has kicked off a June-July campaign to get all homeowners to install reflective house numbers. Representatives of the Fire Company will be contacting homeowners, businesses, builders, retirement communities, church groups, and schools to alert our citizens to the problem.

Cornwall Fire Company supplies the signs alone with your house number on both sides for \$ 25 or \$ 35 for the sign mounted to an aluminum stake. Information on the need for reflective house numbers, where they should be located, and how to order them is being distributed to the community and is available on [www.cornwallfire.com](http://www.cornwallfire.com). The Fire Company will deliver the signs and drive the stake in the lawn if the homeowner needs help.

New construction sites pose a special problem for first responders. The building may be far back from the road with no house number. The Fire Company recommends that builders buy and erect a reflective house number in front of the house, near the street, when construction begins. It will also help those delivering building materials to the site. Tell workers to report the house number, street name, and closest intersection if they call 911"

In addition to emergency response, these signs have other benefits. High visibility signs help traffic navigate through the community. Those delivering anything from pizza, fuel oil, packages, to furniture no longer have to vainly search for the right address. Signs also help customers find a restaurant or business. Safety may also be improved because drivers can spend more time watching the road without being distracted trying to read obscure building numbers.

***Spending \$ 25 or \$ 35 for this reflective address sign "Helps Us to Help You".***

Cornwall Community Fire Company