

# OPINIO

## Visible addresses are a help for rescuers

In this month's article we would like to discuss how our citizens and property owners can assist in emergencies. One of the most frustrating situations is for a first responder is to be dispatched to an emergency and not be able to locate the property because the address is not visible or is missing from the building or mail box.

Consider the following information. Once a person stops breathing, the brain can only be without oxygen for up to four minutes before irreversible brain damage occurs.

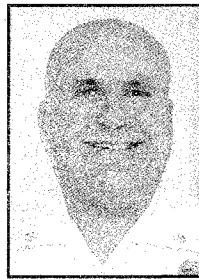
Fires that are openly burning will double in size every 30 seconds.

Not only is proper addressing important for first responders, but consider the mail service, appliance repairs or the cable installer. In most communities there are local ordinances for proper addressing.

Here are some suggestions to help with this issue.

- \* Ensure that the address numbers or letters are at a minimum of 6 inches in height and the stroke of the letter or number is at a minimum half-inch wide.

- \* Make sure the color of the numbers or letters are on a contrasting background. If the color of your home or business has a dark background, make sure the numbers or letters are white or very bright and do not



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blend into the background.

- \* Go to the front of your property and see if your address is visible. Make sure you also check the address for visibility when it is dark outside. During the hours of darkness it is very challenging to locate a property address. Make sure the address is illuminated so it is visible from the street or roadway.

Living in a rural area also has challenges for property addressing. In some areas of our community, the access to the property can be over a half-mile away. Make sure the address is visible from the entry point of the property.

If letters or numbers are mounted on a mailbox make sure it is posted on both sides

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of the mailbox or post. Consider placing the entire address on a sign that will be visible during inclement weather, daytime and nighttime hours.

For further information, contact the Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District at 303-833-2742 or visit us at [www.ffd.us](http://www.ffd.us)