

## Posting Address Number..."If we can't find you, we can't help you"

Section 505 of the Fire Code requires the posting of address numbers on buildings. While we may often use address numbers to find a business or home, address numbers play a critical role in the timely and effective response by emergency responders. Approximately 80% of all emergency calls where fire departments respond, time is of the essence. Any delay can mean the difference between life and death.

We often take for granted that the Palo Alto Fire Department will respond in a timely manner based on their knowledge of the campus and their proximity from the on campus Station 6. However, since there are times when the Palo Alto Fire Department may have to rely on other fire departments to respond due to mutual aid or Station 6 is busy on another call, it is important that buildings be properly identified so that all emergency responders will be able to find a given address in a timely manner.

Section 505.1 of the Fire Code requires that address numbers be posted according to the following:

- Address numbers shall be legible and clearly visible from the street or road fronting the property.
- The characters shall contrast with the background color.
- Address numbers shall be Arabic numbers or alphabetic letters.
- Numbers shall not be spelled out.
- Each character shall not be less than 4 inches in height and have a minimum stroke width of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.
- Where the building is not clearly visible from the road fronting the building, a monument displaying the address number may be posted.
- Address numbers shall be maintained.

Take the time to inspect your building's address number to make sure it is clearly visible for emergency responders.

