

Before We Can Help You, We Have to Find You. Help Us Find You in an Emergency.

Here are some things you can do to help us find you:

- Be sure that house or building is correctly numbered and visible from the street. The numbers should be a minimum of three inches in height, contrasting in color. Example: Dark letters with light background.
- If your house or building is more than fifty feet from the street or the view of the house number is obstructed from the street, numbers should be posted on steel or wood posts 4"x4" at the entrance to the driveway at the street. The numbers on the post should be a minimum of 44 above the ground to avoid snow cover, greater than three inches in height and reflective if possible. A mailbox may substitute as a post, only if the mailbox is located at the end of the appropriate driveway and on the same side of the road. If a driveway has more than one building on it, numbers should be placed at each turnoff and at forks in the road indicating which direction to take.
- Mailboxes are often used to locate an address. A clearly posted reflective street number on your mailbox can save precious time during an emergency. Reflective peel and stick street numbers are very inexpensive and can be purchased at local hardware stores. Post your street number on both sides of your mailbox or mailbox post in 4-inch or larger **reflective** numbers. Make sure the numbers can be seen when the mailbox flag is down. If your mailbox and your home are on opposite sides of the street, add a reflective arrow pointing towards your house.
- Be sure that all numbers are free from vegetation and snow, remaining visible at all times.

Now that we are able to find you, can we get to you? Long driveways and private roads need to be cleared of brush, trees, stumps and rocks for an area fourteen (14) feet wide and twelve (12) feet high to accommodate our emergency vehicles. Tree limbs hanging down will damage the ambulances and fire trucks, as will brush on the sides of the roadway or driveway. This also closes in the road, making it harder for vehicles to pass safely.

Next time you're driving in Essex at night, note how easy it is to see a reflective street number on a mailbox. Now imagine you've called 911 at night. Is your house number easy to see? Do you have street numbers at the end of your driveway? Is your mailbox marked with reflective numbers? Is your driveway wide enough to accommodate Fire apparatus? Help the Essex Fire and Police Departments find you in an emergency. Thanks you for your cooperation!