

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOUSE NUMBERS

House numbers are not only convenient for finding addresses but necessary for emergency responders to locate those in need. When responding to an emergency, seconds matter so be sure the Fire, Police and Ambulances can easily and quickly locate your address.

There isn't always someone available to wave down a Firefighter or Police Officer and direct them to the location of the emergency, so the emergency responders are depending on those numbers in front of your residence or business. It is difficult for emergency vehicles to find homes or businesses whose address numbers are not clearly visible or properly posted.

Searching for the location where the address is not clearly marked increases the response time and may affect the outcome of your emergency. It is recommended that you take a few moments to install house numbers or examine your existing numbers. Take a minute during evening hours to be sure the numbers are easily read from the street. If you have questions please email 911@kossuthcounty.iowa.gov & we'll assist.

Consider the following:

- Every house and business has an assigned address. If you are not sure what yours is, contact your city hall.
- Script numbers or numbers that are spelled out in words may be visually pleasing but are difficult to read from the street
- Brass and bronze numbers are difficult to see. Use numbers that contrast with the background. White reflective letters on a dark background are ideal.
- Be sure that the view of the numbers is not obstructed by shrubs, trees, or decorations
- Numbers should be clearly seen when approaching from either side of the house
- If your house is set back from the street and the house number cannot be seen, then house numbers should be posted at the end of the driveway at the street
- If there are multiple houses that use the same driveway to access their home, each address should be posted at the entrance of the driveway and then again at each individual home
- Ensure that numbers are large enough and can be easily seen by emergency responders. Numbers should be at least four (4") tall

Thanks for helping make us all safer.

Sincerely,

Kossuth County 911 Joint Service Board Chairman

John Crookshank