



DUVALL-KING CO. FIRE DISTRICT 45

15600 1st Avenue N.E. • P.O. Box 338 • Duvall, WA 98019 • (425) 788-1625

Help Us Help You!

Imagine an emergency at your house: a fire in the attic, the accidental poisoning of a child, an older relative with severe chest pain, a prowler in the backyard. You've called 911 and you are waiting anxiously for help to arrive... Now change places. Imagine the firefighter in the engine, the Paramedic in the medic unit, the officer in the police car responding to your emergency call, driving down your street, looking for your house. But they can't find it. "Is it the next house?", "Did we pass it?", "Is it this driveway?", "Do you see a house number anywhere?" Precious seconds tick by as emergency vehicles slow, stop, back-up, and turn around looking for your house.

Scenes like this happen daily in the Snoqualmie Valley. Why? Because many houses in our community do not have their house numbers clearly marked. This is especially problematic because of the prevalence of long driveways and dark roadways in rural King County. **Prominently displayed house numbers, clearly visible day or night, are key to responders being able to reach you and your neighbors in an emergency.** Marking your residence clearly can save seconds, or even minutes when fire and police units are responding to a call at your house or in your neighborhood. Following the guidelines below will help responders to find you in an emergency.

- Having your house number clearly and prominently visible is key to locating your house in an emergency. Displaying your family name or street name can be helpful but is not necessary.
- Your house number should be displayed in block numerals at least 3 inches high against a contrasting background. Using reflective materials makes your house numbers more visible in the dark.
- In a suburban neighborhood setting, with houses located close to the street, placing your house number in a clearly visible location on your residence is sufficient. On a larger lot where houses are set back further from the street, put your house number on a sign at the end of your driveway. Locate the sign so that it is clear which driveway is yours.
- Your house number should be clearly visible from a vehicle driving by in either direction on the street.
- Trim vegetation as necessary to keep your house numbers in view.

- Consider illuminating your house number if it is not in a location where it will be brightly lit by vehicle headlights.
- The house number on your mailbox is adequate for marking your house only if: it meets the preceding criteria for visibility, and it is clear which house it belongs to. If not, provide an additional sign.
- House numbers painted on the curb can be a useful adjunct but should not be used as the primary house number marking. These painted numbers easily obscured by parked vehicles, snow or fallen leaves.
- If you live on a shared driveway mark each intersection with your house number and an arrow clearly identifying the direction to your house.
- If you live on a private road make sure your road has an accurate, legible street sign.

If you have any questions about how to mark your residence please call Duvall Fire at (425) 788-1625. Please help us help you.