Is your address easily visible at all hours?

Sycamore, IL- The key to the most efficient emergency response is to have adequate information relayed to the responders. This information includes the nature of the emergency call, an appropriate address, and any additional hazards that may be present. Additionally, the way an address is displayed plays a crucial role in our ability to find that location.

Shorter response times can mean the difference between life and death, or the extent of property damage. It is important that all address markings are visible from the street, no matter the time of day. "Having your address displayed so emergency responders can easily identify the correct location is very important, especially in rural areas where driveways are longer," says Sycamore Fire Lieutenant Jim Ward. "Making sure your address is clearly marked, lit, and visible from the roadway is crucial for responders arriving in an emergent manner."

Often times, emergency responders find addresses that are covered by overgrown landscaping, peeling paint from homemade signs, or address stickers that are faded or incomplete. Some addresses blend in with the color of the house, while others are only spelled out in cursive script. These barriers make it difficult for responders to accurately identify the exact location of the emergency.

In the City of Sycamore, residents are required to display addresses on houses that are at a minimum of 2 ½" high and visible from the roadway. If possible, illuminating the address at night is preferred, especially if the need for an emergency responder is requested.

Most phones are equipped with GPS locating software, but this software will only locate within a general area, not a specific address or location.

Remember, nobody plans on having an emergency. The Sycamore Fire Department strongly encourages residents to check their address markings and make any repairs as soon as possible in case an emergency arises.

For more information on address placement, please contact the Sycamore Fire Department at (815) 895-4514, or visit us on Facebook at City of Sycamore Fire Department for occasional postings.