

In the event of a police, fire, or ambulance emergency, there is nothing more frustrating for emergency personnel than to respond to a call for help and not be able to locate where the call originated. We are fortunate here in the Village of South Elgin that our dispatch center is equipped with Enhanced 911; if you call from a home phone landline, the address from which that phone is assigned will automatically show up on their computer screen. This is a great feature in the event you are unable to speak to the dispatcher, but if your address is not visible on your place of residence then all the technology is futile.

Numerous times in the past, valuable time has been wasted trying to find someone in need of help due to the fact they did not have their address properly posted on their residence. The Village of South Elgin has an ordinance that requires all property owners to display their address on their building. Commercial structure numbers must be no smaller than 6 inches in size and residential structure numbers no smaller than 4 inches. It is recommended that they are a contrasting color to the building and properly lighted. Metal numbers that are brass or chrome are hard to see if they are posted on lighter colored backgrounds, at night they reflect back the light blending them into the siding of your building and making them difficult to read. Also it is very important to properly maintain your landscaping to make sure trees and shrubs do not block any part of your address.

If you are in doubt about the visibility of your address on your house, stand in the street in front of your home and look for your address; check this both during the day and night. If you don't see your address immediately, more than likely emergency personnel will not be able to either and it's going to take responders longer to find your residence. Remember, in urgent situations lives may depend on how quickly emergency personnel can arrive at the scene, make every effort to be sure your residence or business's addresses are unmistakably visible from the street!

If you have a question or any concerns with anything regarding you or home's health/ fire safety please contact the South Elgin Fire Protection District at 847-741-2141.

