



County of Sonoma
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

FIRE SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



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Informational Bulletin

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Topic:	Addressing		
Code Reference	California Fire Code (CFC) Chapter 5 Sonoma County Fire Safe Standards (FSS) 13-47, 13-48		
For Use By:	Permit Applicants and Staff		

NOTE: This bulletin is a summary of Fire Services Interpretations of County and State Codes. Information contained herein applies to typical instances and may not address all circumstances.

INFORMATION BULLETIN- ADDRESSING

Commercial Building Addressing: CFC Chapter 5

Illuminated addresses shall be provided on buildings. Illumination may be Internal or provided from an external source.

Addresses shall comply with the following:

- a. Building numbers shall be a minimum of 12 inches in height, with a 1 inch stroke, located on two sides of the building. The numbers should face the fronting street and be located at a height providing required visibility (generally near the highest point of the exterior walls). Numbers shall contrast with the background color and be visible and legible from the frontage road or street. The address shall not be located in alcoves or obscured by building projections or landscape features.
- b. Suite numbers shall be six inches in height with a ½ inch stroke. Suite numbers shall be on both front and rear doors.
- c. Buildings located further than 30 feet from the street and multi-building complexes shall have an address posted at each driveway entrance of no less than six inches. The address shall be visible and legible from both directions of travel.
- d. Warehouse and large storage facilities shall have posted on all exterior doors the address numbers or suite numbers no less than 4 inches in height on a contrasting background. This is to identify to the fire department the door will access the address as identified.



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Residential Building Addressing:

FSS Sec. 13-47. Size of letters, numbers and symbols for addresses.

All letters, numbers and symbols designating a residential building address shall be a minimum four inch (4") letter height, three-eighths inch (3/8") stroke, reflective, contrasting with the background color of the sign.

FSS Sec. 13-48. Installation, location and visibility of addresses.

(a) All buildings shall have a permanently posted address, which shall be placed on building and shall be plainly visible and legible from the road on which the address is located or the primary driveway. The numbers shall contrast with their background.

(b) All buildings shall have a permanently posted address, which shall be placed at each driveway entrance and shall be visible and legible from both directions of travel along the road on which the address is located.

Exception: An approved internally lighted building address device may be used when such building address device is located on the building and the building is located within thirty feet (30') of the edge of the road on which the address is located.

(c) All address signs along one-way roads shall be visible from both the intended direction of travel and the opposite direction.

(d) Where multiple addresses are required at a single driveway, such addresses shall be mounted on a single approved post.

(e) Where a road provides access solely to a commercial building, the address sign shall be placed at the nearest road intersection providing access to the site.

When Required:

The requirements listed in this bulletin will be enforced at all times. Mitigation practices will not be accepted as it pertains to addressing.