

# TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON

WHITEHOUSE STATION, NEW JERSEY 08889

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## News Release Clear the Way for Emergency Vehicles

August 11, 2010

One of the major hazards that effect emergency fire and first aid responders are clear identification of property addresses and driveways that are accessible to fire and first aid vehicles.

Please review your mailbox / home identification markings. Township Ordinance 82-4 adopted in December 1991 addresses this critical concern by establishing a uniform standard to assist emergency personnel in identifying properties quickly and efficiently.

The Ordinance states: "identification number(s) shall be **no less than three inches** in height and made of durable and clearly visible material. The numbers shall be of **reflective material** or of sufficient visible contrast to the background material to be easily discernible at night with the aid of an emergency vehicle spotlight. All numbers shall be mounted so that they **face the access road** on which the building fronts and shall be maintained by the owner of the property so as to be unobstructed by trees, shrubs, and other vegetation or otherwise."

The Readington Township Bureau of Fire Prevention strongly recommends that the three inch numbers be reflective and are located on both sides of your rural mailbox. Identification number(s) on homes and businesses should be in a clear unobstructed location.

Fire trucks require a minimum 12 feet wide corridor and adequate turning radiuses to have access when responding to emergencies. Properties that have either shared easements or long approaches need to be maintained with large vehicle access in mind. Driveways overgrown with trees and bushes are a hazard impeding prompt and efficient response.

Our volunteers are prepared and trained to respond to your emergency needs. Please do your part in helping us identify your property and have the necessary access when needed. Fire Prevention is a continuous ongoing process that requires cooperation from all parties to achieve established response and safety goals.

Sincerely,

John Barczyk  
Fire / Zoning Official

Cc: Chief of Chiefs Ed Favre, Whitehouse Fire Co. 22  
Chief Ken Apsley, Readington Volunteer Fire Co. 32  
Chief Brian Apgar, East Whitehouse Fire Co. 31  
Chief Jamie Reed, Three Bridges Fire Co. 33  
Chief Jeff Herzog, Whitehouse Rescue Squad