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**BFD: Visible addresses speed response times during emergencies**

Bartlesville public safety officials are asking local residents to help with efforts to reduce response times during emergencies by prominently displaying addresses on their homes and businesses.

According to Bartlesville Deputy Fire Chief and Fire Marshal David Topping, an address displayed in four-inch numbers on a house or business can save precious moments during an emergency — and that can mean the difference between life and death.

“One of the simplest things people can do to ensure that they get the help they need as quickly as possible is to make sure we can find them,” Topping said. “A lot of times they’ll give dispatch an address, but when we get there we’ll find two or three houses with no address displayed so it takes longer to figure out where we need to be. All emergency responders — police, fire and ambulance personnel — need to be able to find the location easily and quickly. It really can be a matter of life and death.”

Topping said some residents have their address displayed on the curb outside the residence rather than on the front of the home, but this can pose a problem if a vehicle is parked in front of it.

“Certainly having it on the house *and* the curb is ideal. But if it’s only in one place, it needs to be on the house,” Topping said.

Also, using contrasting colors to make the numbers stand out is important, Topping said.

“If their house is painted a darker color, the numbers should be a lighter color, and vice versa,” he said. “We’ll often see a brick home with dark letters, and that’s just too hard to see — especially at night. It’s really important to make sure the color of the numbers and the house contrast so the number are easier to see.”

For more public safety tips and information, visit  
<http://www.cityofbartlesville.org/public-safety/>