

Home Addresses



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Imagine this: It's the dark of night in the dead of winter. The wind is roaring down the mountainside as it so often does, carrying sheets of rain. Driving is treacherous. The lights flicker momentarily – and then they're gone, throughout the town. You've retired for the evening, already a bit restless, when a loud splintering and a reverberating crash bring you to full attention. You're OK, but the eerie afterglow of sparks emanating from your den bodes poorly. After surveying the situation, you see that you need help and you need it fast. So you call 911 – “Please send help to 742 Evergreen Terrace” – and almost immediately an emergency response team is on the way.

Now imagine that the emergency responders arrive in your neighborhood, but they cannot find your home because they can't see your house number.

This may seem like an unlikely scenario, but anyone who has spent a winter in Brisbane knows it's not far-fetched. In the event of fire, medical, or police emergency, at any time of day or year and especially under adverse conditions, it is essential that responders can quickly and easily identify each dwelling by address. If you are in urgent need of help, when minutes or even seconds of delay can have dire consequences, the last thing you want is to be “lost.”

If you haven't already done so, consider illuminated or reflective numbers for your home or business. One convenient option is a solar address light. It's affordable and easy to install (no wiring), and it will continue to operate during a power outage. Information on solar address lights is readily available on the internet. Better yet – visit a local hardware store and see one first-hand.

Aside from facilitating emergency response, there are other benefits to showing off your numbers. Visitors will find you more easily, and deliveries will be more reliable. A nicely displayed address can add a touch of elegance to a home or business.

Of the many ways that you can protect yourself and your family, this is one of the easiest. Make sure that the address of your home can be readily identified, and sleep a little bit easier.



It's not just prudent to display your home or business address prominently – it's the law. Section 502 of the

California Building Code states that “Approved numbers or addresses shall be ... *plainly visible and legible from the street or road fronting the property.*” Local jurisdictions such as the City of Brisbane are tasked with defining, implementing, and enforcing this and other aspects of the building code. Brisbane Municipal Code Chapter 15.44 (Fire Prevention) includes a section titled Premises Identification that specifies the requirements for numbers or addresses on all structures.

REQUIREMENTS FOR NUMBERS & ADDRESSES

- Numbers or addresses on all structures should be positioned on a contrasting background, plainly visible and legible from the street fronting the property, and clearly associated with the structure to which they relate.
- Numbers and letters should be at least 4” in height and 1/2” wide.
- Multi-tenant buildings must have illuminated numbers or letters for each unit.
- For all new structures (and all existing structures, when a building permit is issued), street addresses must be internally or externally illuminated from dusk to dawn.
- Numbers should be installed in a location that won't be blocked by parked vehicles, vegetation, or other obstructions that could interfere with viewing them.
- In some cases, the Fire Chief may also require that the address or number of a structure is visible and legible from the back of the property.