

This week's Ask the Chief came from someone dear to me, my daughter. She recently started a paper route and with not knowing Minnesota, has become very flustered by the number of homes without house numbers on them. "Dad, why don't houses have numbers on them?" "Well dear, maybe people don't realize how important it is to have your house properly identified with a number; not only for the newspaper delivery person but also for emergency services."

After given my daughter's question more thought I decided to see if there was a city ordinance requiring homes to have their address clearly displayed on the house. To my surprise no such ordinance exist, which makes this particular article more of a request rather than an informative piece. The best reason I can think of to put your address on your home is that it makes it easier for emergency response crews to find your house. Yes, a house on fire is easy to find, but what if you are having a heart attack. The 911 system will give me your house number but if you and your neighbors don't have numbers on your home, I am left guessing as to which house you are in. This can become life threatening if you have a heartache because every second I waste trying to figure out where you live is a second you lose in hopes that I can save your life. Please help me, help you. Make sure your address is on your house and that it can be clearly seen from the street. Both my daughter and I would appreciate it.

Chief Bill Bolt