

Fire Department Signage Update and Recommendations

May 17, 2019

Update since 1st report:

Research

- Reviewed building code
- Chose two roads (South Ridge and Old Farm); measured and took pictures of all house signs; reviewed with Chief Norton
- Learned:
 - None conformed to letter height requirements in code
 - Code requires 4 inches, 2.5 seems adequate
 - About a third met FD's desired standards for contrast, visibility, legibility
 - Most were deemed inadequate due to:
 - No signage at all (20%)
 - No/insufficient contrast between letters and background (sign or tree)
 - Placement on ground
 - Sign positioned facing one way only so illegible from other direction

Conclusions

- Building code requirements are appropriate with respect to visibility, contrast, types of letters and numbers. Characters should be not less than 2.5 inches high (as opposed to current 4 inches) and 0.5 inches wide (as is.) Visibility shall be defined as visible from a car windshield

Recommendations

1. Require all Chilmark residences to meet signage requirements by 1/1/2020
 - a. Building code as amended above
 - b. House number required, name preferred but optional
2. The Chilmark FD will place signage at all houses that do not comply; owners shall pay \$100 per sign, to go to the Chilmark Volunteer Fireman's Association (CVFA).
3. Ask the students at the Chilmark School to design house signs that meet the requirements; FD/Police/Tri-Town will choose 3; these will be the signs used as needed in #3 above.