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Michael Dobbs

Owner/Instructor

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We can't help you if we can't find you



**Ask
the
Mayor**

by Mayor
John
Peyton

In an emergency situation, the precious moments between placing the call to 9-1-1 and hearing those sirens charge down your street can seem like an eternity. Those moments can also mean the difference between life and death. In the throes of a fire or at the hands of an attacker, every second counts - and every second rescuers spend looking for your home is one wasted. That is why the City of Jacksonville is launching a campaign known as Operation FIND FAST. The campaign's slogan is "We can't help you if we can't find you" — and that is the simple truth when it comes to emergency services.

The first component of Operation FIND FAST is encouraging homeowners to properly post their house numbers. A missing or out-of-sequence house number or an incorrect or poorly marked address can delay emergency

responders by precious minutes. Making sure your address is visible is an easy way to plan for your safety in the event of an emergency. Your address should be posted on your home in numbers that are at least four inches high and half an inch wide. They should also contrast with the immediate background. (For example, place black numbers on a white house.) Walk down to the end of your driveway today and try to look at your home through the eyes of a police officer or firefighter. Ask yourself: Can the house number be seen from the road? Can it be seen in the dark or in bad weather? Are trees or shrubs covering the numbers? Remember, if you can't see your address, neither can the emergency response unit.

The other major portion of Operation FIND FAST deals with re-addressing — which means changing the numerical address or street name of homes and businesses to eliminate duplication. In a city that has undergone such explosive growth, duplicate addresses and street names do occur, and they often cause serious problems for police and fire rescue efforts as well. The City of Jacksonville has created a 9-1-1 Addressing Committee and charged it

with eliminating all duplicate street names. Each quarter, the committee will focus its efforts in one of the city's six sectors: North, Northwest, Southwest, Urban Core, Arlington and Southeast. It will determine the duplicate streets that need to be re-named and hold community meetings to notify property owners of the change and solicit feedback for new street names. It will take about three months to complete the process in each sector, with an ultimate goal of eliminating all duplicate street names in Jacksonville by June 2007.

The city will do everything possible to make the transition as easy and seamless as possible for property owners. Affected homeowners will not be charged to correct their information with agencies like the Department of Motor Vehicles, and the U.S. Postal Service has agreed to honor both addresses for one year after the change to ensure that property owners have ample time to update their information.

Putting larger numbers on your roofline or changing your address may be an inconvenience, but these steps will help to keep you and your loved ones safe in the event of an emergency. Take Operation FIND FAST seriously - it could save your life.

ROBERT'S

SEMI TRAILER REPAIR

5331 New Kings Rd. • Jacksonville, FL 32209

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Jacksonville, Florida 32209

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\$10,000 REWARD

for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in the armed robberies of our restaurant:

6001 N. Main St.

Jacksonville, FL 32208

Tues., August 30

If you have any information, please call the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

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