



City of Chico Fire Department

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Chico, California 95928
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Standard Premises Identification

The purpose of this standard is to clearly identify and mark proper addresses pursuant to Section 505.1 of the California Fire Code as adopted by Chico City Council.

1. Approved numbers or addresses shall be placed on all new and existing buildings above the main entrance or in an **approved** alternate location, plainly visible and legible from the street or road fronting the property. **Rear Addressing:** When required by the Fire Chief, approved numbers or addresses shall be placed on all new and existing buildings in such a position as to be plainly visible and legible from the fire apparatus road at the back of a property or where rear parking lots or alleys provide an acceptable vehicular access. Number stroke and size shall comply with the Standard Premises Identification Standard & City of Chico Assignment of Address and Suite/Unit Number Standard.

2. The minimum* size dimension of the address numbers shall be as specified below:

Single Family Dwellings, Individual Suites/Units in Commercial and Apartment Developments	4" high	½" stroke
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Individual Buildings With A Common Street Address (i.e. Numbered Buildings Within An Apartment Complex)	6" high	¾" stroke
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Commercial Buildings and Apartment Buildings (Main Address)	8" high	1" stroke
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Commercial Buildings when the structure's façade is 30 feet or greater in height or over 250 feet from the curb/roadside	12" high	1 ½" stroke
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***Larger numbers may be required to achieve visibility on larger buildings.**

3. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals, legible to the equivalent of Arial Bold Font.
4. Numbers shall highly contrast with a solid colored flat surface. Clear glass backgrounds and numbers made with polished metal or similar materials are not allowed. Numbers made from approved reflective materials are allowed provided the reflected light creates legible numbers that are highly contrasting with the surrounding materials.
5. Where building addresses are not clearly visible due to distance from the roadway, landscape/architectural details, or other obstructions, address posting shall be required both at the drive entrances serving such buildings and on the building. Such street or roadside address posting shall be compliant with City Standard S-16. Where unusual circumstances exist, a direction indicator may be required to show specific direction to building(s).
6. Condominium, apartment complexes, townhouses, mobile home parks and multiple commercial buildings shall have installed at points of entry an illuminated directory in accordance with the "Standards for Illuminated Directory".
7. Multi-Family address number systems shall also comply with "City of Chico Assignment of Address and Suite/Unit Number Standard" written by the City of Chico Building Division.

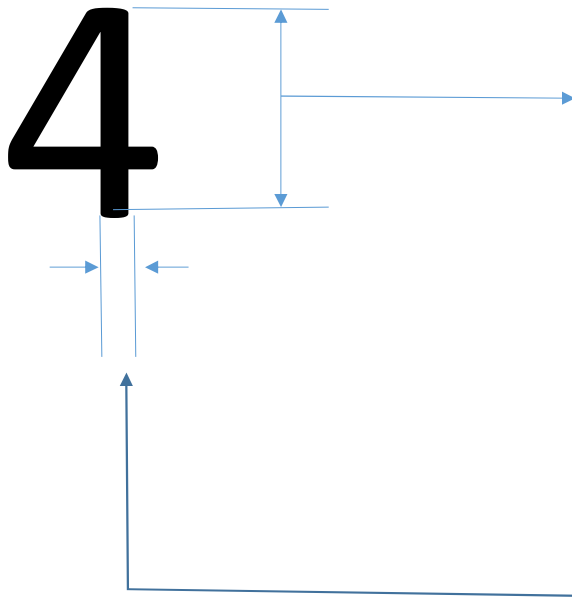
Address Numbers



General Requirements

- Approved address numbers shall be placed on all new and existing buildings and shall be plainly visible and legible from the street or road fronting the property. Where the building is not visible from the public way, an additional pole or monument sign shall be used to identify the address.
- Rear Addressing. When required by the Fire Chief, approved numbers or addresses shall be placed on all new and existing buildings in such a position as to be plainly visible and legible from the fire apparatus road at the back of a property or where rear parking lots or alleys provide an acceptable vehicular access. Number stroke and size shall comply with the Standard Premises Identification Standard & City of Chico Assignment of Address and Suite/Unit Number Standard.
- Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals legible to the equivalent of Arial Bold Font. Address numbers may not be spelled out.
- Address numbers shall highly contrast with a solid background.
- Polished metal numbers may NOT be used. Numbers made of an approved reflective material may be used provided that light reflected from the numbers produces clear and contrasting address numbers easily distinguishable from surrounding materials.
- Address numbers may NOT be placed on clear glass or glazing.
- In addition to individual address numbers, complexes with multiple buildings will be required to have each building numbered. See below for specifications. Also refer to the Building Division *City of Chico Assignment of Address and Suite-Unit Number Standard* for additional information.

Address Number Size (minimum)



Height:

- 4 inches - Single family dwellings, individual apartment units, and suite numbers
- 8 inches - Apartment buildings and commercial structures less than 30 feet tall and/or less than 250 feet from the curb.
- 12 inches – Apartment buildings and commercial structures 30 feet tall or more and/or 250 feet or more from the curb.
- NOTE: Larger numbers may be required to achieve desired visibility on larger buildings.

Stroke:

- 1/2 inch - Single family dwellings, individual apartment units, and suite numbers
- 1 inch - Apartment buildings and commercial structures less than 30 feet tall and less than 250 feet from the curb.
- 1-1/2 inches – Apartment buildings and commercial structures 30 feet tall or more and/or 250 feet or more from the curb. NOTE: Larger numbers may be required to achieve desired visibility on larger buildings.

Individual Building, Unit, and Suite Numbers

Building XX

Units
XX - XX

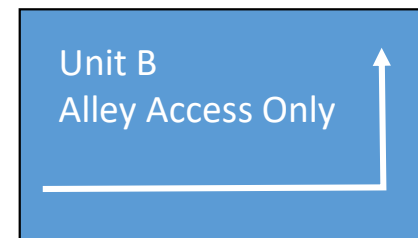
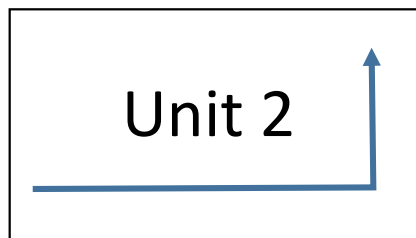
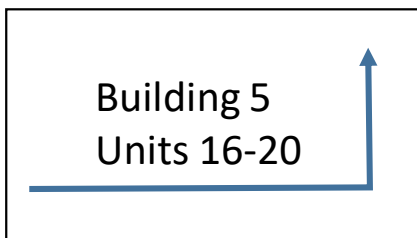
- Individual building numbers are 6 inches minimum with $\frac{3}{4}$ in stroke minimum
- Highly contrasting background
- Range of units in building or individual suites
- 4 inches minimum with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch stroke minimum
- Highly contrasting background
- Building Number/Unit sign shall be **internally or externally illuminated**
- Mount at a height that is visible from along the approaching path of travel
- Sign shall not be obstructed by parked vehicles, other structures, or mature landscaping
- Individual suites and apartment units shall have the unit number posted **adjacent** to the door. Suite numbers shall also be posted adjacent to the rear door (if applicable).
- Position numbers so they will not be blocked by an open door. Do NOT place numbers directly on the door.

Directional Signage

Additional signs may be required when buildings, units, or suites do not have direct access from the public way fronting the building or parking area, or accessed through an inner courtyard. In such situations, signs shall be posted along the pedestrian walkway to indicate the direction of travel to the building, units, or suites.

- Signs shall be located in a visible location along the direction of travel to the building(s), unit(s) or suite(s)
- Signs shall be mounted directly to a building, fence, or permanent sign post. Lawn stakes or similar temporary mounting methods are not allowed.
- Numbers and letters shall be a minimum of 4 inches with a ½ inch stroke
- Color combinations of signage shall be highly contrasting.
- Directional signs do NOT need to be internally or externally illuminated

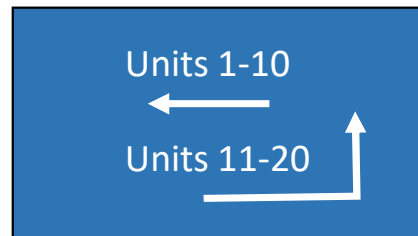
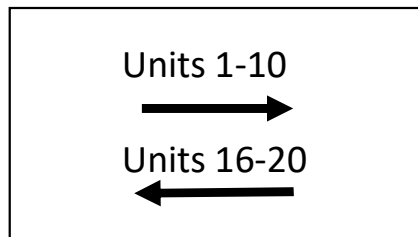
Examples of Directional Signs

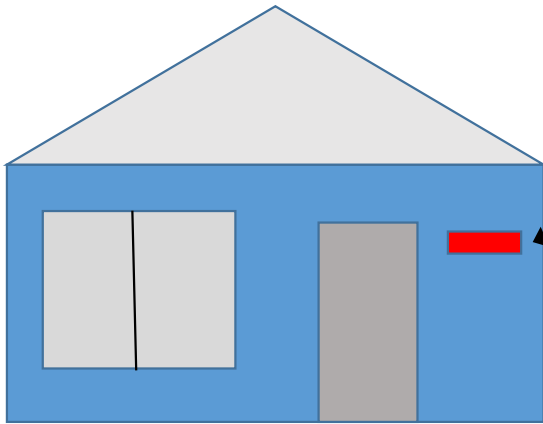


Interior (stairwell/corridor) Directional Signs

Some building designs may have multiple units being accessed from one staircase, stairwell, or corridor. In such cases, additional directional signs may be required to help direct emergency personnel to such units. When required, interior directional signs shall meet the following conditions:

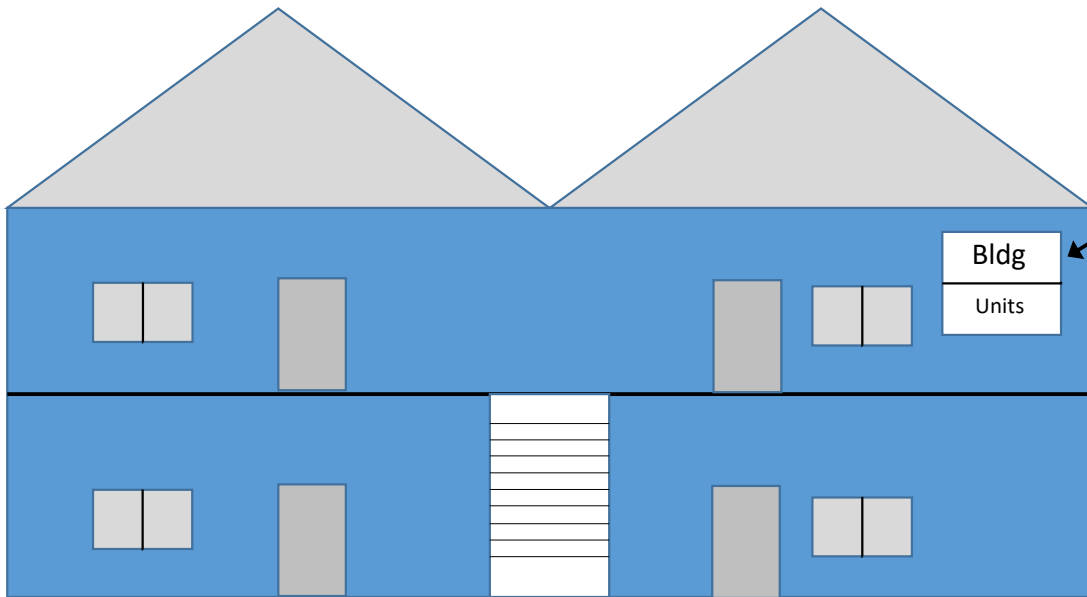
- Signs shall be placed in close proximity to each entrance, alcove, stairwell, or elevator lobby.
- Numbers and letters shall be a minimum of 5/8 inch with a 1/16 inch stroke
- Directional signage shall also meet the requirements of the California Building Code section 1143A when applicable
- Color combinations shall be highly contrasting.





ADDRESS NUMBERS

- Plainly visible from street fronting property
- Solid and contrasting background
- Approved size and materials

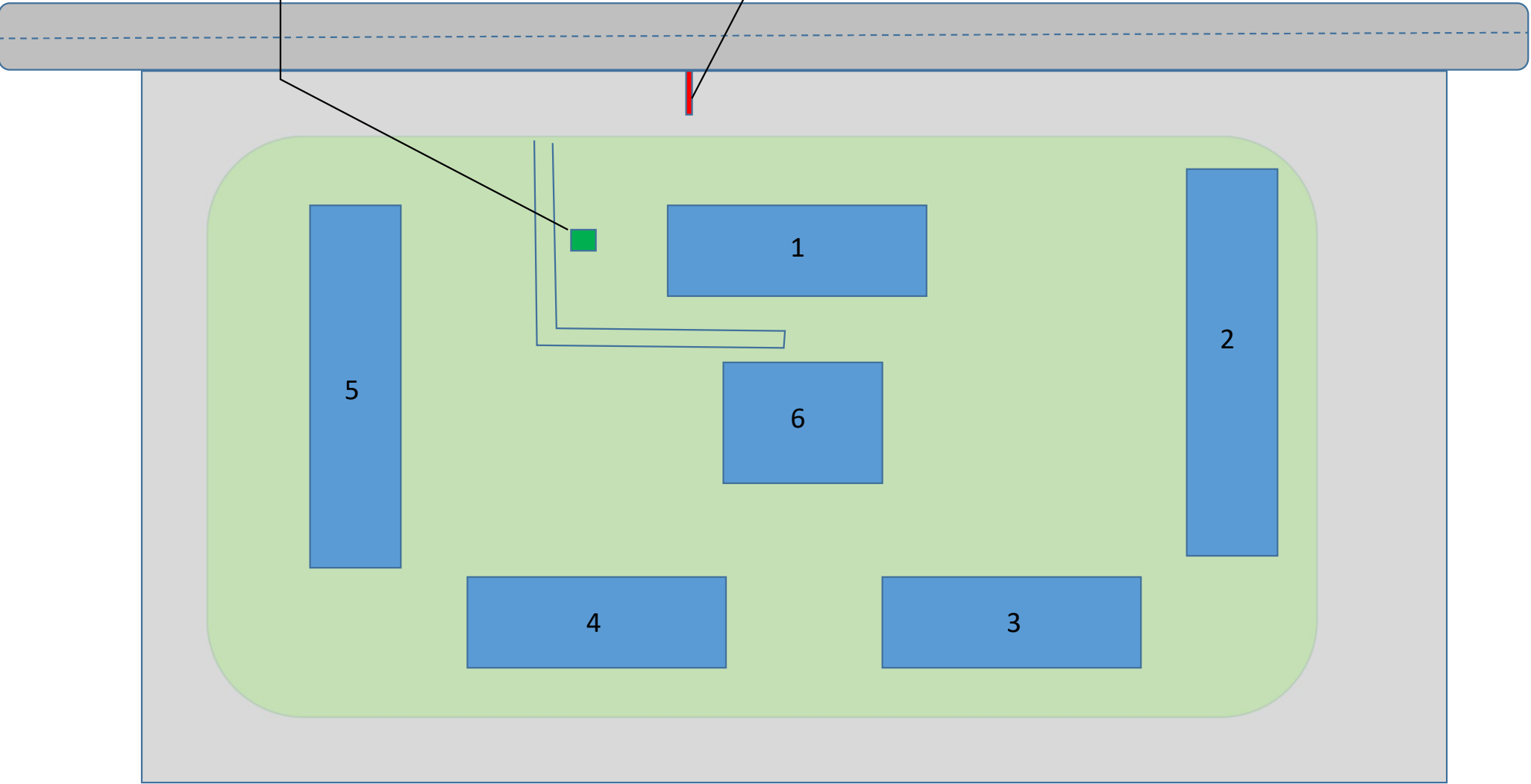


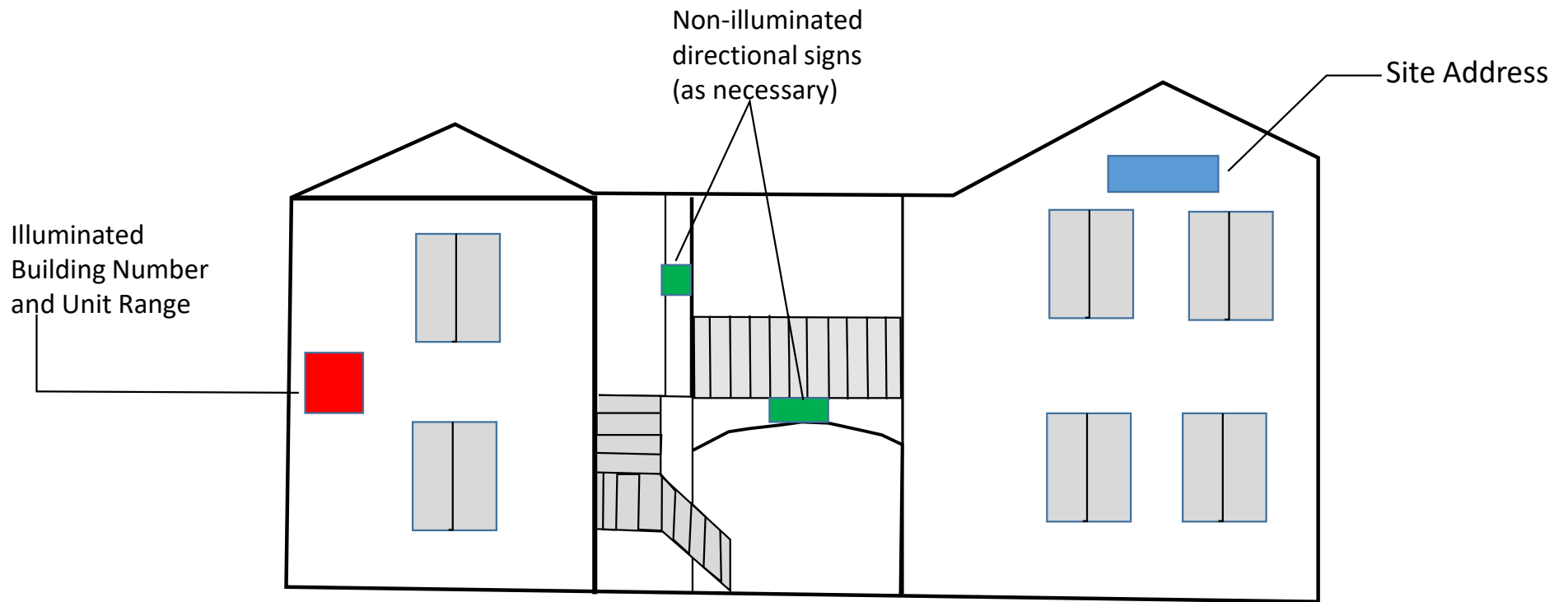
BUILDING & UNIT NUMBERS

- Internally or externally illuminated sign
- Building Number = 6 inch high minimum
- Unit Numbers = 4 inch high minimum
- Visible from public way, parking area, or path of travel
- Located to avoid obstruction by parked vehicles, other structures, or mature landscape

Directional Sign to Building 6 along path of travel

Main Entrance
Illuminated Directory





City of Chico Assignment of Address and Suite/Unit Number Standard

Premises Identification shall comply with the “Standard Premises Identification” pursuant to the California Fire Code as adopted by the Chico City Council. There is a fee to either assign a new or retire an existing street address or residential unit number – see the Planning Division Fee Schedule.

All addresses within the City of Chico jurisdiction will be assigned by the Address Coordinator. National addressing standards require buildings to be addressed based on their frontage or main entrance. Neither fractional address (i.e. “½”) nor alphabetical unit/suite letters (except residential units accessed by an alley) shall be assigned and, whenever possible, such existing situations shall be eliminated. The electric service meter and gas meter shall be labeled with the street address and unit number in 1” letters/numerals.

ASSIGNMENT OF ADDRESS/SUITE NUMBERS FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

1. Each building shall be assigned a separate address. The address shall be posted on the building in compliance with the Standard Premises Identification.
2. Suite numbers shall be assigned to separate tenant spaces for office buildings, strip malls and shopping centers. The suite numbers shall be posted in compliance with the Standard Premises Identification. There is no fee for commercial suite assignment or retirement.
3. Exterior and on-site directional signage may be required and coordinated with City Fire Department when buildings, units, or suites do not have direct access from the public way fronting the building or parking area, or access through an inner courtyard.
4. Interior directional signage: In the case where multiple suites are accessed by one staircase/stairwell, a directional sign stating those suite numbers shall be placed in close proximity to each entrance, such as an alcove, stairwell and/or near a staircase. In the case of multiple stories served by a staircase/stairwell, a directional sign shall be provided at each story. The sign shall identify the suites accessed from that floor in addition to indicating the suites accessed on floors above. Directional signage must comply with California Building Code Section 1143A and the Standard Premises Identification.

ASSIGNMENT OF STREET ADDRESS FOR SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCES AND ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

1. Each single family residence shall be assigned a unique street address whenever possible.
2. A second dwelling unit or Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) may either be assigned their own street address or a unit number under the address of the existing residence, depending on the location of the ADU. Occasionally, the existing residence on the parcel to which an ADU is being added will also be assigned a unit number. If the ADU is not clearly visible from the street, or has primary access from an alley, a directional sign shall be required as specified in Item 7 under the Multifamily Residential heading.
3. Residential access by alley only may be assigned “Unit B”.
4. An address will not be assigned to accessory structures for the purpose of installing utility or other services. This includes agricultural, storage, pool house, guest house, garage or utility-type structures.

ASSIGNMENT OF STREET ADDRESS, BUILDING AND UNIT NUMBERS FOR MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL

For the purposes of assigning unit numbers, the term “multifamily residential” shall include rental/lease projects such as an apartment or duplex/triplex complex, condominiums, and mobile homes or manufactured housing parks.

1. Multifamily residential complexes will be assigned a single street address. The street address shall be posted on the building in compliance with the Premises Identification Standard. This signage is required in addition to any street number that may be placed on a monument-type sign calling out the name of the complex.
2. Multiple residential buildings within the site shall each be assigned a building number (for example, Building 1). The building number shall be illuminated, either internally or externally. External illumination shall be provided by a light source immediately above the building number. In addition, the building number signage shall also include the dwelling unit number range for each building. For example, Building 1, Units 1-4. This additional designation shall also be illuminated, either internally or externally.
3. Each dwelling unit within the building shall be assigned a unit number. They will follow the building numbers assigned, in consecutive order. The lowest unit numbers would begin with Building 1. The unit number must be posted in compliance with the Premises Identification Standard.
4. In the case where multiple units are accessed by one staircase/stairwell, a directional sign stating those unit numbers shall be placed in close proximity to each entrance, such as an alcove, stairwell and/or near a staircase. In the case of multiple stories served by a staircase/stairwell, a directional sign shall be provided at each story. The sign shall identify the units accessed from that floor in addition to indicating the units accessed on floors above. Directional signage must comply with California Building Code Section 1143A.
5. Typically, buildings such as leasing offices, recreation buildings, storage buildings and clubhouses do not require a building or unit number assigned. They are, however, identified by their use, meaning the building description. This wording shall be placed on the building, 6" height letters by 3/4" stroke. Again, it shall be visible from the path of travel. Depending on individual situations, building numbers may be assigned to these building types at the discretion of the Address Coordinator and emergency services.
6. If the complex has more than one entrance, the main entrance will be determined by these factors:
 - a. An entrance has a monument and/or landscaping not seen at other entrances.
 - b. An entrance in close proximity to the manager’s apartment or office.
 - c. Proximity of the entrance to the nearest thoroughfare.
7. In some situations, directional sign(s) will be required. In a situation where units/suites have access from the side and/or rear of the building, directional sign(s) will be required at additional location(s) near pedestrian walkways to clearly indicate the direction to those units/suites. This would also hold true if there are buildings that are not visible from the street or a parking area. These directional signs shall be permanently placed on a building or fence with minimum 4" numbers/letters with ½" stroke approved by the Fire Marshal. Lawn stakes are not acceptable.