

Emergency Response Number

An Emergency Response Number (ERN), also known as a fire number, is the number issued based upon the Columbia County Address Grid.

These numbers provide an orderly and uniform system for numbering structures and properties in the unincorporated areas of the County to aid in:

- * The timely and efficient provisions of all emergency services to all rural residents, including police, fire, ambulance and emergency management;
- * The reduction of inconvenience to visitors in locating a particular address;
- * Reducing the potential for traffic accidents created by individuals looking for a residence or business address; and
- * Reduce the loss of mail and goods due to poor or insufficient addresses.

Columbia County Planning & Zoning

112 E. Edgewater Street
Portage, WI 53901
(608) 742-9660
Office Hours:
Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
planning.zoning@co.columbia.wi.us
www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/planningzoning

This handout summarizes requirements for Emergency Response Numbers but it is not all inclusive. Please contact Department Staff with specific questions regarding your project.



Columbia County, Wisconsin

112 E. Edgewater Street * Portage, WI

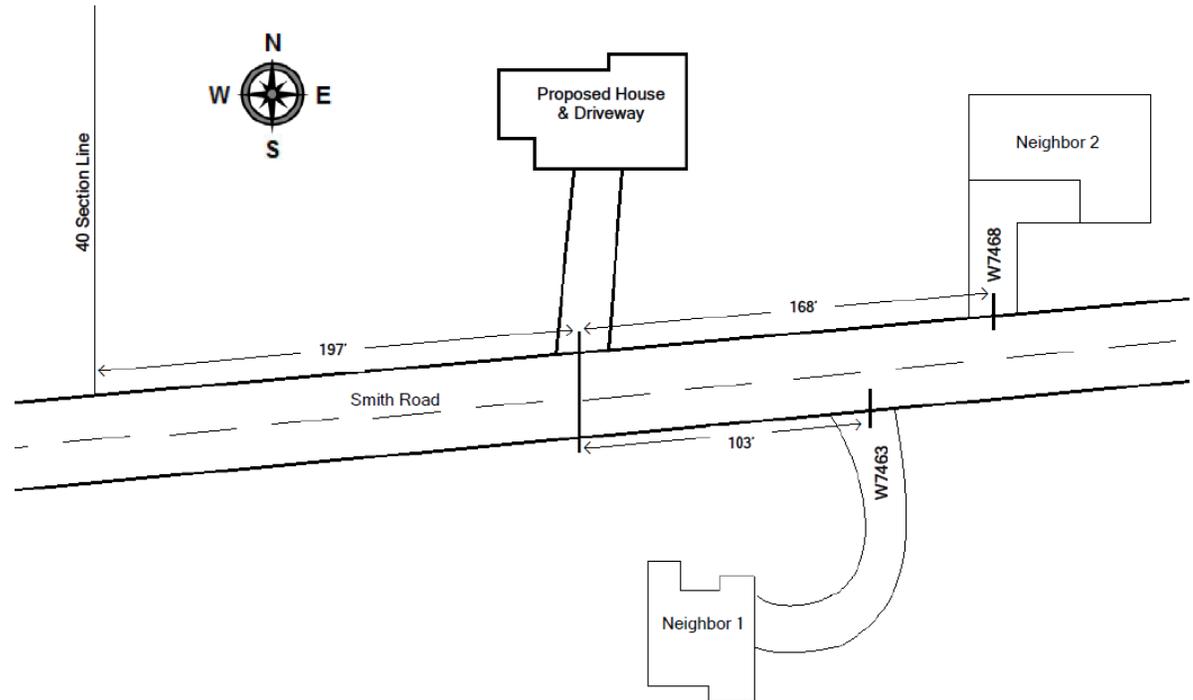
When to Apply?

An Emergency Response Number (ERN) Application will be assigned to a parcel prior to the installation of a new septic system or the first permitted structure on the lot. Before applying for an ERN, you will be required to contact either the Town, County Highway Department or State Highway Department to obtain a driveway permit, depending on the road your lot fronts on. A copy of this approval will need to be included with your ERN application at the time it is submitted to the Planning & Zoning Department. All new driveway locations and upgrades of existing entrances require a driveway permit from the applicable authority. Such permits must be obtained prior to applying for your ERN.

Application

The Planning & Zoning Department requires the owner or applicant to provide a detailed site plan showing the distances between existing driveways on either side of the parcel. When filling out this form, we need more than just a “guess” as to the distance to the next driveway. The number you will be issued is based on the location where your driveway will meet the road. When measuring distances between driveways, measure from the center of each driveway, not from end to end. The accuracy of the information you provide regarding the driveway location is important in assuring the number assigned is in proper sequence with other numbers, and allows for the reservation of numbers to serve future development.

Site Plan Example:



Installation

Once the ERN is issued, a copy will be sent to the property owner, Town, Post Office, Sheriff's Department and Land Information Department.

Although we notify the town, we encourage you call them to ensure they receive the notice. You will also want to check with them to see if they have any fees associated or any other information they may need to order and install your sign.

Fees

Emergency Response Number \$75.00

The applicant is required to pay a fee upon submittal of the application for a number. The fee is for the issuance of the ERN and not the physical sign. The towns are informed once the number has been issued and they are responsible for ordering the signs and coordinating installation.

