



City of Santa Barbara
Fire Prevention Bureau
Mixed Use Occupancy Identification Signs

This information sheet is to make you aware of the Fire Department's current policy concerning mixed use occupancies. City Ordinance #5779 adds the 2016 California Fire Code Section 505.1.1 to read as follows:

“Mixed use occupancies: A notification system shall be installed in a manner and location approved by the Fire Code Official which indicates the presence of residential dwelling units.”

The Fire Department requires that the notification system be a sign clearly visible from the front of the building using the following criteria:

1. All signs shall begin with the letter R followed by a hyphen.
2. R- Shall be followed by the number or numbers denoting the floors of the dwelling units.
Example: R-2 denotes dwelling units on the 2nd floor; R-2-3 denotes dwelling units on the 2nd and 3rd floors.
3. Letters shall be a minimum of 4” high with a 1/2” wide stroke.
4. Letters shall be contrasting to their background.
5. Letters on glass shall be in reflective tape.
6. In the event that dwelling units are added or removed from floors, the sign must be updated as soon as possible.

The addition of these signs to identify mixed use occupancies will greatly aid firefighters in determining the need for rescue of occupants from these buildings. Example:

R-2