

CHAPTER 13

SIGNING FOR ROADS

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13.01 PURPOSE. This chapter mandates the use and placement of the Uniform Rural Address System for residents of the County, in order to promote the orderly addressing of residences, convenience, safety and general welfare of the people of the County, and provides for a penalty.

13.02 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. "Base map" means the map used by the agency coordinating the Uniform Rural Address System in the County. Such a map shall indicate all addresses in the County subject to the provisions of this chapter.
2. "Board" means the County Board of Supervisors.
3. "Building" means a roofed and/or walled structure built for permanent use.
4. "Engineer" means the Wapello County Engineer.
5. "Joint 911 Service Board" means the Wapello County 911 Board, appointed by the Board of Supervisors under the provisions of Chapter 34A.3 of the Code of Iowa, which includes the legal entities created pursuant to Chapter 28E of the Code of Iowa references in Subsection 34A.3(3) of the Code of Iowa.
6. "Subdivision" means the division of a tract of land into separate lots or parcels for the purpose of transfer of ownership or building development.
7. "Zoning Administrator" means the Wapello County Zoning Administrator.

13.03 ESTABLISHMENT OF SYSTEM. The Board shall establish the street and avenue type of Uniform Rural Address System to be used in the County. (*See Addendum "A" to this chapter.*)

13.04 USE OF SYSTEM. The Uniform Rural Address System shall extend over the entire unincorporated areas of the County, except for those areas already using the system of a nearby incorporated area. Any incorporated area, upon presentation of a written request from the governing body of such city to the Board, may also be including in the Uniform Rural Address System.

13.05 ROAD NAME CHANGES.

1. Requests for road name changes are to be submitted to the Board. The Board is the final authority on all road and address decisions.
2. All proposed names shall conform to the guidelines set forth in this chapter and conform to the name/address system.
3. The person requesting the street name/address change shall reimburse the County for all expenses, such as (but not limited to) sign changes and publication fees, if the change is approved by the Board. These costs shall be paid prior to any expenditures for an approved change.

13.06 IMPLEMENTATION OF SYSTEM.

1. Duties of Joint 911 Service Board. The Joint 911 Service Board shall:
 - A. Assign addresses.
 - B. Notify post offices, rural emergency providers, dispatchers, emergency vehicles and county offices located in adjacent counties whereby such districts overlap into Wapello County of the effective date of the system and address assignments.
 - C. Purchase sign assembly materials which meet Iowa Department of Transportation specifications.
 - D. Notify all residents affected by this mandatory system, by publication and posting of the following information:
 - (1) How to use the system.
 - (2) That road markers have been placed. (*See Addendum "B" to this chapter.*)
 - (3) That permanent address markers have been placed indicating the assigned house numbers.
 - (4) That maintenance of the system is required and where replacement markers can be obtained and how to place them.
 - (5) How to obtain address markers for new structures.
 - (6) That there is a penalty for refusing to use the system and for removing, damaging, altering or destroying the address marker.
 - E. Develop, print and make available rural reference maps.
 - F. Distribute the markers.
 - G. Provide for every person owning, controlling, occupying or using any house, store, storeroom, or building situated on premises fronting any public way, as provided in Section 13.04, a permanent marker on such premises indicating the assigned number. Any house number existing at the time the provisions of this chapter take effect and that is different than the newly assigned number shall be removed at the time the new number is installed. The permanent marker with house number affixed shall be placed within fifteen (15) feet of the edge of the surfaced portion of the driveway on the addressed structure side of the driveway, and clearly visible from roadway. The provisions of this chapter do not apply to accessory buildings but may apply to such buildings located on a separate unit of frontage if requested by the owner or proprietor and approved.
2. Duties of the Engineer:
 - A. Verify the accuracy of the map that shall be used in the assignment of addresses.
 - B. Make all necessary corrections and updates to that map.
 - C. Supervise the installation of road identification markers at each road intersection in the County to which the provisions of this chapter apply. Such markers shall be in place on or before the date the system takes effect.

13.07 MAINTENANCE OF UNIFORM RURAL ADDRESS SYSTEM. The Zoning Administrator is responsible for the enforcement and maintenance of the Uniform Rural Address System in the County. These duties include assignment of all new addresses and, in conjunction with the Engineer, providing markers for new addresses, providing replacement markers, replacing street markers, updating maps, making available new maps on an annual basis, making periodic checks of the

rural areas of the County to insure that the provisions of this chapter are being complied with, and any other duties necessary to insure the continued maintenance of the Uniform Rural Address System in Wapello County. A fee for replacement of said markers, covering the cost of said markers, shall be paid to Wapello County E911 Board by the property owner or proprietor. All cost for materials incurred by the Zoning Administrator and the Engineer shall be reimbursed to them by the E911 Board.

13.08 NEW STRUCTURES. Every person erecting a building as set forth in the provisions of Section 13.06(1)(G) of this chapter, but after the date the Uniform Rural Address System becomes effective, shall, within seven (7) days of commencement of construction, notify the Zoning Administrator who shall within fourteen (14) days assign a number to such structure. The provisions of Section 13.06 are applicable to any person subject to the provisions of this section.

13.09 PENALTY. Refusal to use the Uniform Rural Address System, or the removal, damaging, alteration or destruction of the Uniform Rural Address Marker which indicates the assigned number of a premises or the removal, damaging, alteration or destruction of a rural address system marker intentionally by one who has no right to do so is a violation of this Code of Ordinances. In addition, any violation of this chapter is a County infraction which is punishable by a civil penalty.

ADDENDUM “A” TO CHAPTER 13

CRITERIA FOR 911 MAPPING

PRIORITY:

1. Number all roads to fit grid system.
2. If roads are in conflict with grid system they will be named.
3. All FAS and FM routes will have one road number or name.
4. Named roads will be kept to a minimum.
5. As much as possible road name will change at city limits and county lines, with the exception of county line roads. If they are named by another county for E911 they will not be changed. On the east and west sides of the County the adjacent county name will be first; on the north and south sides Wapello County will be first.

ORDER FOR NAMING ROADS:

1. Township Name
2. If road crosses a stream, the stream name will be used.
3. If road has a major feature, feature will be used.
4. Common name that road is known as. †

NO PROPER NAMES WILL BE USED.

NO ROADS WILL BE NAMED AS TREES.

ROUTE NUMBERS WILL NOT BE USED.

† NOTE: Many roads in the County have more than one name; most are not official names and it depends on whom you are talking to as to what they call the road. In some cases FAS/FM roads have more than one defined name; if this is the case the roads will use the name that is most prevalent. Example: In the case of Route H47, one section is known as the Copperhead Road, other sections are known as the Oldfield Road, Hickory Grove, Baptist Camp Road, Forest Lake Road, Ridge Road and Goat Ranch Road, just to name a few. In this example the name will be Copperhead Road. Another example is J12, where sections are known as Sand Plant Road, Monkey Mt. Cliffland Road, Streeby Road, and Hancock Road. Route J12 will be River Road.

ADDENDUM “B” TO CHAPTER 13

GUIDELINES FOR INSTALLING E911 SIGNS

E911 signs are placed to assist emergency and law enforcement personnel and the general public in locating residents that live within Wapello County. The following are guidelines for locating these signs within the County.

1. Signs will be put on the northeast corner of an intersection. Signs will be at a height of not less than six (6) feet above the highest point of the intersection. At normal intersections within the County, signs will be placed no closer to the centerline than thirty (30) feet in all directions. Exceptions:
 - a. If this would inhibit visibility of the public by blocking the driver’s vision of oncoming traffic, or if the sign cannot be seen easily from all directions of travel when approaching the intersection.
 - b. At T-intersections, signs will be placed on the side opposite of the approaching traffic that must turn. The sign should be placed as near the centerline of said lane as possible. If it needs to be offset to one side or the other it shall be offset to the right of said lane.
 - c. At Y intersections, signs shall be done the same as at T-intersections. If the intersection has a graded ditch then it shall be placed in the graded area so that it can give the maximum visibility to all traffic that approaches the intersection.
2. At T-intersections the sign on the backside of the approaching traffic that must turn will be blank.
3. There may be more than two street, avenue, or road names on a post.
4. At state highways, signs shall be installed in line with the County Road right-of-way line and offset 30 feet from the edge of the pavement or placed at the right-of-way line, whichever is less. The *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) suggests that signs be placed on the far right corner for traffic on the major route (Primary). This results in two signs being placed on diagonally opposite comers at each intersection. Both the major route and the named County Road should be identified on the signs (per I.D.O.T. original dated May 10, 1991, republished May, 1994.)
5. If signs cannot be placed as above, consideration will be given to the northwest corner first, southeast corner second and southwest corner third. For situations not covered by these instructions, the lathe and pie stake should be placed at the location that best suits the situation, and the map marked and turned into the office for review.