Placarding Residential Structures with Truss Type, Pre-Engineered Wood and Timber Frame Construction

On November 18th, 2014 the New York State Codes Council met and endorsed the Department of States emergency rule for establishing criteria and the labeling of residential structures utilizing truss type, pre-engineered wood and/or timber frame construction. As of January 1st 2015 any new residential structure or any existing residential structure under remodeling, rehabilitation or constructing an addition shall be placarded if these types of construction are used.

The placard will normally be found on the exterior electrical box, or in plain view of the emergency responders when pulling up to the address for an incident. It is between the authority having jurisdiction and the emergency responders to come up with a plan that suits both parties in their jurisdictions.

It is the responsibility of the home owner to maintain the placard and keep it in plain view of the emergency responders.

On the right are samples of what this placard should look like. The circle is a 6” red reflective, ½” stroke with a white reflective background. The twelve o’clock position is the alphabetic construction type i.e. I, II, III, IV, V. The six o’clock position is R, F, or FR. The letter R symbolizes the truss, pre-engineered and or timber frame types of construction are used in the Roof framing. The letter F symbolizes those construction types are used in the Floor framing and RF symbolizes the construction types are in both the Floor and Roof framing. These letters are to be ½” stroke, red reflective as well.

It is the job of the local building department or code enforcement official to notify the fire departments when these types of construction are being used. A certificate of occupancy is not to be given unless these placards are present.

12/16/14