

*News Release*



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***Fire Organizations Work Together to Educate Building Owners on  
Firefighter Safety Act Requirements***

Beginning November 8, Santa Rosa County fire personnel including MSBU fire departments, special fire taxing districts, municipal fire departments and county fire prevention personnel, will work together to notify building owners of the state requirement to mark structures containing lightweight or light-frame truss elements with an approved symbol to warn firefighters. The Aldridge-Benge Firefighter Safety Act, which was passed by the Florida legislature in 2009, requires any commercial, industrial or multi-unit residential structure of three units or more, that have horizontal or vertical light-frame truss-type construction in any portion of its structural elements, to be marked. All newly constructed buildings are required to meet this rule prior to the issuance of the certificate of occupancy. Fire safety personnel will begin contacting the owners of buildings identified as containing this type construction that were built before the requirement was enacted.

In 1989, two Orange County firefighters, Todd Aldridge and Mark Benge, tragically died in the line of duty from the collapse of a roof comprised of light-frame trusses. As an effort to proactively prevent similar tragedies, the Florida legislature passed the Aldridge-Benge Firefighter Safety Act on December 13, 2009. Buildings were expected to comply with the law by March 13. However, most property owners are unaware of the new requirements.

The approved symbol in the State of Florida is a Maltese Cross measuring eight inches horizontally and eight inches vertically made of a bright red reflective color, including the appropriate designation of "R" for roof trusses, "RF" for roof/floor trusses or "F" for floor trusses. For more information, please contact Tambre Lee, Santa Rosa Fire Prevention Inspector/Plans Examiner at (850) 981-7042 or [tambrel@santarosa.fl.gov](mailto:tambrel@santarosa.fl.gov).

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