

Neighborhood Watch Signs

Bulletin
#104

Q: Do I need the County's permission to post a Neighborhood Watch sign in my neighborhood?

A: In accordance with SCC Title 13, the placement of a private sign in the public right-of-way requires a permit from the Public Works Department. Through a "no-fee" permit process, sponsors of neighborhood watch signs are obligated to inform the Public Works Department of sign locations and dates of placement.

Q: How do I apply for a Neighborhood Watch sign permit?

A: Applications are available from the Public Works Customer Service Counter on the 2nd floor of the Robert J. Drewel Building or online at www.snoco.org, search "neighborhood watch signs." A fee is not required for a permit. The application is reviewed to be certain that the sign placement doesn't restrict safe movement of traffic and pedestrians. A site plan is required showing the proposed location of sign placement. The review time is approximately 1-2 weeks. If locations are approved, a Type C right-of-way permit will be issued.

Q: Where can I place the Neighborhood Watch sign?

A: Sign placement may be limited as determined in the review. Applicants place signs on new 4 X 4 posts set to specifics below. The location of a post-mounted sign shall not restrict the vision of motorists entering or leaving public or private rights-of-way and there shall be unobstructed vision for traffic at intersections, driveways, mailboxes, bus stops etc. Signs which obstruct the vision of motorists, or are a potential traffic hazard, will be removed by the Public Works Department.



Q: What specifics for placing signs should be considered?

A: The following should be considered when deciding where to place the sign:

1. Location—as determined by application and review.
2. Posts—a 12-foot, 4 x 4 cedar wood post is required to be buried 3 feet into the ground. The use of anchor rods or cleats is helpful in preventing vandalism of the sign post.
3. Distance from the road—place signs 6 to 12 feet from the edge of the roadway (traveled way) depending on local visibility conditions. Where there is a curb, the sign should be at a distance of at least 2 feet from the curb, measured to the outside of the road.

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4. Height—the bottom of the sign should be mounted on the 4 X 4 post at a minimum height of 7 feet from the nearest edge of the roadway.
5. Angle—Signs are normally mounted at an approximate right angle to the direction of and facing the traffic that they are intended to serve. A post-mounted sign should be turned slightly away from the roadway to avoid glare from headlights to approaching traffic.

Q: Is insurance required?

A: Questions of risk and liability arising out of the use of the public right of way for placement of a private sign are covered by the provisions of SCC 13.10.090 and SCC 13.10.100. Liability Insurance may be required if the engineer determines that there is a risk of potential liability to the County.

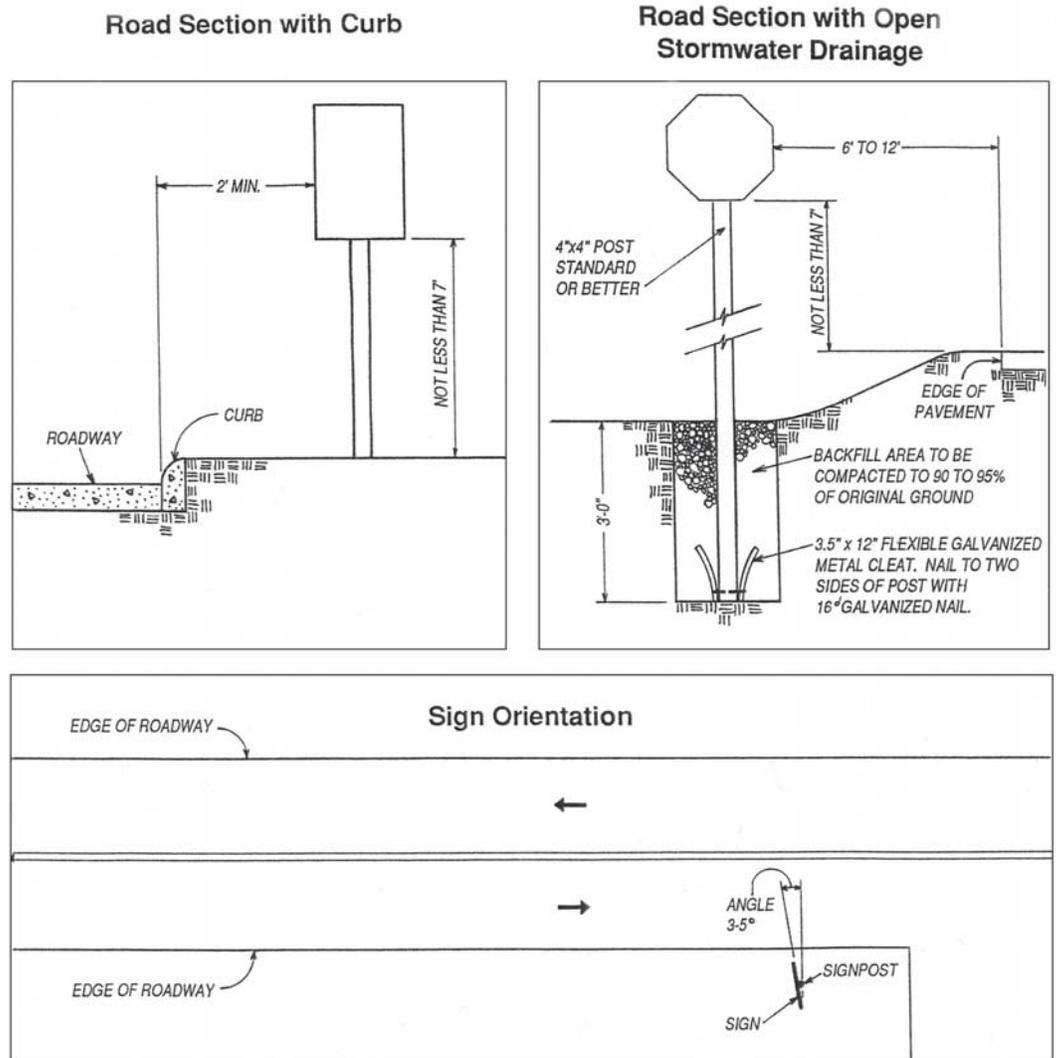
Q: Who maintains the signs?

A: Maintenance and replacement of a damaged or deteriorated sign will be the sole responsibility of the sign sponsor or the permittee whichever is applicable, in accordance with the terms of SCC 13.50.030.

Sign Installation Guidelines

(not to scale)

Sources: **Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices**, U.S. Dept. of Transportation FHWA, and **Design Standards and Specifications**, Snohomish County Public Works Department



This bulletin is intended only as an information guide. The information may not be complete and is subject to change. For complete legal information, refer to the Snohomish County Code.

Snohomish County Public Works, 425-388-3488 or 1-800-562-4367, ext. 3488.
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