

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/15/2020 8:09:07 PM

First name: Bill

Last name: Spirka

Organization: Wilmington Fire Department

Title: Assistant Chief

Comments: To Whom it May Concern,

The Wilmington Fire Department is responsible for all emergency coverage in Searsburg, Somerset, and part of Glastenbury. Over the years it has been extremely difficult at times to locate individuals that are in distress. This is due to the very limited amount of signage in all of the above covered area. When there is some sort of designation, it is often a designation that is overlapped by another name or number.

We would like to encourage the updates and developments that are being considered. We would however, like to strongly encourage the use of signs where ever possible. WE would also like encourage a more consistent and thorough type of signage. Currently we have to decipher between, Trail Names, Snowmobile Trail Numbers, Road Names, Road Numbers, and odd GPS names. It would be very beneficial to us and to the patients if we had some sort of continuity between all this. Currently we do not have any accurate maps that show all of the listed ways that things are labeled. Time is important in an emergency. We have a 20-30 minute response time just to get to a staging area. From that point, we need to have an accurate location in which to respond to. With so many designations for the same location sometimes it is extremely difficult to pin down.

In closing, we would like suggest that some sort of updating be performed so that we are able to respond quickly to the correct location. It is our hopes that the Forest Service can help with correcting the deficiencies that now exist. We would more than welcome sitting down to discuss this process and to provide any assistance that we can. Thank You.