



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

**FPB POLICY
A-14-1**

**FIRE ACCESS ROADWAYS
CFC SECTION 503**

I. PURPOSE

This policy clarifies San Diego Fire-Rescue Department's fire apparatus access roadway requirements as outlined in CFC Section 503.

II. SCOPE

Fire access roadways for new and existing buildings are regulated by this policy. Both public streets and private roadways fall under the scope of this policy.

III. WHERE ROADWAYS ARE REQUIRED (CFC Section 503.2)

Buildings shall be accessible to emergency vehicle access. Fire apparatus access roadways shall be not less than 20 feet of unobstructed width; shall have an adequate roadway turning radius, and shall have a minimum vertical clearance of 13 feet 6 inches as per Development Services approval process. Access roads shall be extended to within 150 feet, 200 feet in sprinklered buildings of all portions of the first story of the building served (as measured around the exterior of the building), and shall be installed with an all-weather driving surface. All access, including bridges, shall support the imposed load of fire apparatus weighing at least 75,000 pounds.

Exceptions:

- A. Proposed surfaces other than concrete or asphalt shall be designed and installed in accordance with FPB Policy.
- B. For buildings and roadways legally in existence prior to the current code, private roadway widths less than 20 feet may be permitted to remain. The ability to conduct fire fighting operations will be the primary consideration in grandfathering these reduced roadway widths.
- C. These requirements may be modified when authorized by the Chief. The Chief may require installation of a fire access roadway when circumstances warrant.

Community Risk Reduction Division

Fire-Rescue Department • 600 B Street, Suite 1300 • San Diego, CA 92101-4903
Tel (619) 533-4400 Fax 544-6806

IV. RED CURBS/PARKING SIGNS

The required width of access roadways shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking of vehicles. Where no space is provided for parking along access roadways, they shall be kept clear by the posting of signs or the painting of curbs as follows:

- A. Owners or property representatives shall post the entrance to the required roadway with an approved sign. Sign shall read "NO PARKING FIRE LANE" in letters of 1" or greater in height. Signs shall be placed every 100 feet facing traffic at a height of 7 feet. Requests for placement variations, alternative sign designs, or omission of signs shall be submitted in writing and must be approved by the Fire Inspector II Liaison for DSD.

Exception: Signs may be omitted on public streets.

- B. All curbs that outline the access roadway shall be painted red. White 4 inch high letters reading "No Parking - Fire Lane" shall be stenciled every 30 feet on the red curb. If no curb is present, an 8 inch wide red stripe shall be painted on the pavement. The stripe shall be lettered the same as a curb.

Exception: Red fire lane curbs on public streets do not require the white stenciled lettering.

- C. Signs, red curbing, and white lettering shall be maintained to ensure visibility (CFC Section 503.3).

NOTE: San Diego Fire-Rescue recommends that signs as well as red curbs with white lettering be provided.

V. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS (FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION)

- A. 26 foot access roadway:
1. When adjacent to buildings that are greater than 30 feet in height above natural grade, the access roadway shall have a minimum width of 26 feet. The location shall be 15 - 30 feet from the building and shall be positioned parallel to one entire side of the building.
 2. When adjacent to a fire hydrant, access roadways shall be a minimum of 26 feet in width for 20 feet in either direction from the hydrant. (See attached specification sheet.)

B. Turning radius (CFC Section 503.2.4):

A minimum 50 foot turning radius is required and shall be in accordance with the semi-trailer template from the current adopted fire code. Inside measurement shall be according to California Truck Semi-Trailer Wheel Tracks. An additional two feet of width shall be provided to allow for clearance of apparatus bumper overhang.

C. Maximum grades shall not exceed (CFC Section 503.2.7):

1. 15% (6.75°) for concrete
2. 12% (5.4°) for asphalt
3. For additional specific information, the current City of San Diego's "Street Design Manual" link:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/publicworks/pdf/edocref/streetsdesignmanual02.pdf>

D. Large buildings (2013 CFC Appendix D, Section D104):

1. Buildings exceeding 62,000 square feet shall have two separate and approved fire apparatus access roads.
2. Projects up to 124,000 square feet shall have a single approved fire apparatus access road when all buildings have approved sprinklers.

E. Bridges:

All bridge structures shall utilize the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Standard HB-17, current adopted edition, for fire apparatus loads.

VI. NOTIFICATION OF PROPERTY OWNERS

A. New Construction:

Fire access roadway requirements for new buildings are addressed during the plan review process.

B. Existing Buildings:

1. On Private Streets:

The Department will notify affected property owners when it is determined that a fire access roadway is required. The notice shall advise the property owners of their right to appeal to the Fire Marshal. If an appeal takes place and is decided in favor of the City, or after 30 days if no appeal is requested, a Notice to Install Fire Lane will be

issued to the property owner(s). The owner is responsible for the installation of signs and/or the painting of curbs and will be given fifteen (15) days to do so. If the owner does not comply within the given time frame, further administrative actions may be taken by the Chief on a case-by-case basis.

2. On Public Streets:

When it is determined that a public street needs to be designated as a fire access roadway, the Department will notify the affected property owners by mail. The Department's letter advises the property owners to address questions or appeals to the Fire Prevention Bureau. Once questions and appeals have been addressed or after 30 days if no appeals have been filed, the Department will contact the Traffic Engineering Division. A site meeting will be held between the Department and Traffic Engineering to clarify exactly which curbs are to be painted and where signs, if any, are to be placed. Traffic Engineering will issue the work order for the installation of signs and/or the painting of curbs to the Streets Division.

- C. Copies of all correspondence between the Department and property owners shall be retained in the Fire Prevention Bureau's geographical files.

Promulgated by: _____

Date: _____

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