



Emergency Apparatus Access (Fire Lanes)

Standard

2003 International Fire Code Section 503
Richland Municipal Code Title 20

Practice

The property owner shall be responsible for the construction and maintenance of all emergency apparatus access roads. Removal of prohibited obstructions, including vehicles, is the responsibility of the property owner, manager or designee.

Emergency apparatus access roads shall be 20 feet wide and have a vertical clearance of 13 feet 6 inches.

Barriers prohibiting public access may be secured with a chain and lock, a lock with a key provided in an approved key box, or an approved key switch.

Detailed plans showing the location of proposed emergency apparatus access roads may be required.

All designated emergency apparatus access roads shall be marked in at least one of the following manners: Signs, Pavement Markings or Red Curb. The Chief or designee shall determine the approved method, or methods, of marking.

SIGNS

- Required emergency apparatus access roads shall be marked with permanent **NO PARKING – FIRE LANE** signs. Lettering shall be not less than one-inch in height and clearly visible from a vehicle.
- Signs shall be of metal construction, measuring 12 inches wide and 18 inches high, and of a reflective type. Plastic or wooden signs are not acceptable.

- Signs shall be in visible locations and mounted on galvanized metal poles, or treated 4x4 wooden posts, at a height of 80 inches. Signs shall be maintained visibly unobstructed by foliage, etc.
- The distance between signs posted along the emergency apparatus access road shall not exceed 150 feet. Not less than two signs shall be posted in each block. If traffic flows in two directions, signs must be posted on each side.

PAVEMENT MARKINGS

- Rolled curbs or surfaces without curbs shall have a painted red six (6") wide stripe extending on both sides of the emergency apparatus access road. The surface adjacent to the stripe shall be marked with a minimum 18" in height block lettering with a minimum three inch brush stroke reading: "NO PARKING - FIRE LANE." Lettering shall be white in color and spaced no more than 50 feet apart.

RED CURB

- Vertical curbs shall be painted red on the top and the side, extending the length of the designated emergency apparatus access road. The pavement adjacent to the painted curbs shall be marked with minimum 18 inch in height block lettering with a minimum three inch brush stroke reading: "NO PARKING - FIRE LANE." Lettering shall be white in color and spaced no more than 50 feet apart.

Guide

Emergency Apparatus Access Roads, also known as Fire Lanes, are part of a building's fire protection system. When a building plan is reviewed, fire lanes are engineered to provide access where proposed public roads and driveways are insufficient for emergency access. Obstructions such as vehicle parking or landscaping may also require a clear travel lane for fire and medical units.

To assist the property owner, or designee, with keeping a fire lane free from parked vehicles, the Richland Fire Department offers these suggestions:

- Proper markings best control illegal parking
- A warning note educating the vehicle owners
- Private penalties as part of a rental agreement
- Towing the vehicle away from a marked fire lane
- The fire department may issue a citation

The Chief or designee may modify these requirements.