



El Segundo Fire Department Fire Prevention Division

Regulation A-1-a Access Roadways for Fire Apparatus Fire Lanes

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **Purpose:** The purpose of this regulation is to establish a consistent regulatory standard for fire apparatus access roadways.
- B. **Scope:** These regulations apply to every building and other structure hereafter constructed and to those existing structures designated by the Fire Chief. Fire apparatus roadways are required for buildings or structures where any part is more than 150 feet from a street or public way and where access for fire apparatus is not provided by a street or public way on at least two sides.
- C. **Authority:** El Segundo Municipal Code Sections 13-10-1 and 13-10-2, California Fire Code, Chapter 1, Division II, Section 104.1

II. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Individuals, Companies and Corporations that have required fire apparatus access roadways or fire lanes shall be responsible for compliance with this regulation.
- B. The Fire Prevention Division of the El Segundo Fire Department shall approve all fire apparatus access roadways or fire lanes.

III. POLICY

Fire apparatus access roadways are required for buildings or structures where any part is more than 150 feet from a street or public way and where access for fire apparatus is not provided by a street or public way on at least two sides. For the purpose of determining the distance of a building from the fire apparatus access, the fire apparatus access point shall be considered the centerline of the street.

Fire apparatus access roadways shall not be required where there are not more than two Group R, Division 3 or Group U occupancies as defined in the California Building Code, and in the opinion of the Fire Chief, firefighting or rescue operations would not be impaired.

III. REQUIREMENTS

A. General Requirements

1. Where required, fire apparatus access roadways shall be provided on at least two sides of every structure, one of which shall be the side with the greatest length. The roadway shall run parallel to the entire length of each side, not closer than 15 feet or farther than 35 feet from the building.
2. Fire apparatus access roadways shall be capable of supporting a gross vehicle weight of 50,000 pounds, and shall be an all-weather surface.
3. Vertical clearance of at least 15 feet shall be maintained above all parts of the roadway, and consideration given to aerial ladder and other operations which may require additional clearances. This shall include planting of vegetation a sufficient distance from the fire lane to afford this distance when the vegetation is fully grown.
4. The minimum unobstructed width shall be 20 feet, except that a width of 26 feet shall be provided within 20 feet on each side of a hydrant located adjacent to the roadway. The minimum unobstructed width for roadways with parking on one side of the fire apparatus access roadway shall not be less than 32 feet and with parking on both sides of the roadway shall not be less than 40 feet in width.
5. All turns shall have a minimum inside radius of 40 feet, with an outside radius of 60 feet.
6. Maximum grade shall be as follows:
 - a. Asphalt – 12%
 - b. Concrete – 15%
 - c. Approved vegetation filled pavers – 5%
7. Dead-end roadways in excess of 150 feet shall have a turn-around which conforms to the accompanying diagram.

B. Roadways in Landscaped Areas

1. Where a fire apparatus access lane is required in a landscaped area, concrete paver stones or an approved alternate may be installed.
2. The paver stone opening shall be filled to no closer than 1 inch of the surface with topsoil and seed.

3. A retainer of red painted concrete shall be installed to secure and identify the fire apparatus access lane perimeter.
 - a. The retainer is not required if the paver stones do not require a retainer to maintain the paver stone setting.
4. The retainer shall be a minimum of four (4) inches deep and three (3) inches wide.
5. Approved red reflective markers shall be installed every 20 feet on each side of the fire apparatus access lane the full length of the landscaped area. The markers shall be staggered to provide marking each 10 feet. All markers shall be placed so that they will not be obstructed by vegetation.
6. An approved blue reflective marker shall be placed at the edge of the fire lane near each fire hydrant.

C. Identification

1. Public street access points to the fire apparatus access roadways shall be marked by posting an approved sign. The signs shall be posted on the right side of the access roadway, facing the public street. If due to limited visibility upon entering the access roadway, the sign can be placed in an alternate location, upon approval from the Fire Department. Signs shall conform to the accompanying drawing.
2. All portions of the roadway shall be adequately marked, including those portions which are part of parking lots and entrance drives.
3. Fire apparatus access roadways shall be marked by either:
 - a. Painting curbs which outline the roadway with traffic red color paint and white lettering stenciled on the curb top stating "NO PARKING – FIRE LANE". Curb lettering is to be a minimum 5 ½ inches in height with a ½ inch stroke. Approved signs shall be posted every 50 feet where the continuous curb is over 100 feet in length.
 - b. Where curbs are not provided (parking lots, etc.) marking is accomplished by outlining the fire apparatus access roadway with painted reflective striping, traffic red in color. Striping is to be a minimum of 6 inches in width. "NO PARKING – FIRE LANE" shall be painted in the center of the roadway at intervals not to exceed 50 feet. The lettering is to be white in color, a minimum 12 inches in height with a 2 inch stroke.
4. An approved blue reflective marker shall be placed at the edge of the fire lane near each fire hydrant.

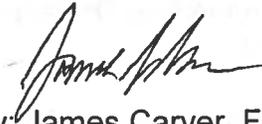
D. Gates and barriers

1. Security gates and barriers constructed across a fire apparatus access roadway shall be approved by the Fire Chief prior to installation. If approved, the following approved fire department access method shall be provided:
 - a. For manually operated gates and barriers by using a Knox Company Knox Padlock in series with the facilities padlock.
 - b. For automatic gates and barriers, a Knox Company Knox Override Key Switch shall be installed in a location approved by the field fire inspector.

E. Obstruction

1. Obstruction of any fire apparatus access lanes by parked vehicles, equipment or in any other manner is a violation of the El Segundo Municipal Code, section 13-10-1. It is the responsibility of the property owner or operator to maintain fire apparatus access roadways free of obstructions. Enforcement action may be taken against the property owner or operator in addition to causing the issuance of citations and towing of vehicles.

Issue Date: April 26, 2012



Approved By: James Carver, Fire Marshal