

C I T Y O F L E W I S V I L L E

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

FIRE LANE
SPECIFICATIONS
Ord. #2757-12-2001
Sec. #503

2002

DIVISION II

FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS

503.1 Where required. Fire apparatus access roads shall be provided and maintained in accordance with Section 503.1.1 through 503.1.3.

503.1.1 Building and facilities. Approved fire apparatus access roads shall be provided for every facility, building or portion of a building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction. The fire apparatus access road shall comply with the requirements of this section and shall extend to within 150 feet (45 720mm) of all portions of the facility or any portion of the exterior wall of the first story of the building as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility. Except for single- or two-family residences, the path of measurement shall be along a minimum of ten feet (10') wide unobstructed pathway around the external walls of the structures.

Exception: The code official is authorized to increase the dimension of 150 feet (45 720mm) where:

1. The building is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3.
2. Fire apparatus access roads cannot be installed due to the location on property, topography, waterways, non-negotiable grades or other similar conditions, and an approved alternative means of fire protection is provided.
3. There are not more than two Group R-3 or Group U occupancies.

503.1.2 Additional access. The code official is authorized to require more than one fire apparatus access road based on the potential for impairment of a single road by vehicle congestion, condition of terrain, climatic conditions, or other factors that could limit access.

503.1.3 High-piled storage. Fire department vehicle access to buildings used for high-piled combustible storage shall comply with the applicable provisions of Chapter 23.

503.2 Specifications. Fire apparatus access roads shall be installed and arranged in accordance with Section 503.2.1 through 503.2.7.

503.2.1 Dimensions. Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet, except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.6, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 14 feet.

Exception: Vertical clearance may be reduced, provided such reductions does not impair access by fire apparatus and approved signs are installed and maintained indicating the established vertical clearance when approved.

503.2.2 Authority. The code official shall have the authority to require an increase in the minimum access widths and vertical clearances where they are inadequate for fire or rescue operations.

503.2.3 Surface. Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus and shall be provided with an all-weather paved driving surface. Paved driving surface as used in this Section shall mean reinforced concrete or asphalt sufficiently designed to support any fire department vehicle and surface capable of being striped as a fire lane.

503.2.4 Turning radius. The turning radius of a fire apparatus access road shall be approved by the chief. The minimum inside turning radius of an apparatus access road shall be twenty (20) feet. The minimum outside turning radius of a fire apparatus access road shall be forty (40) feet.

503.2.5 Dead ends. Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet (45 720mm) in length shall be provided with an approved area for turning around fire apparatus.

503.2.6 Bridges and elevated surfaces. Where a bridge or an elevated surface is part of a fire apparatus access road, the bridge shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with AASHTO *Standard Specification for Highway Bridges*. Bridges and elevated surfaces shall be designed for a live load sufficient to carry the imposed loads of fire apparatus. Vehicle load limits shall be posted at both entrances to bridges when required by the code official. Where elevated surfaces designed for emergency vehicle use are adjacent to surfaces, which are not designed for such use, approved barriers, approved signs or both shall be installed and maintained when required by the code official.

503.2.7 Grade. The grade of the fire apparatus access road shall be within the limits established by the code official based on the fire department's apparatus.

503.3 Marking. Where required by the code official, approved signs or other approved notices shall be provided for the fire apparatus access roads to identify such roads or prohibit the obstruction thereof. Signs or notices shall be maintained in a clean and legible condition at all times and be replaced or repaired when necessary to provide adequate visibility.

503.3.1 Apparatus Access Roads. When required by the chief, approved signs or other approved notices shall be provided and maintained for fire apparatus access roads to identify such roads and prohibit the obstruction thereof or both. Fire apparatus access roads shall be striped on a paved surface, and be clearly marked on the pavement with a red line at least four (4) inches wide. "No Parking" and "Fire Lane" in not less than four (4) inch letters in white shall be placed every other fifteen (15) feet on the stripe. Where

the fire lane stripe is adjacent to a curb, the entire curb shall also be painted. All fire lanes shall connect at both ends to a dedicated street or be connected with approved turn around areas located at the dead-end portion(s). All paint referred to shall be a traffic marking paint.

503.4 Obstruction of fire apparatus access roads. Fire apparatus access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking of vehicles. The minimum widths and clearances established in Section 503.2.1 and any area marked as a fire lane as described in Section 503.3 shall be maintained at all times.

503.5 Required gates or barricades. The code official is authorized to require the installation and maintenance of gates or other approved barricades across fire apparatus access roads, trails or other accessways, not including public streets, alleys or highways.

503.5.1 Secured gates and barricades. When required, gates and barricades shall be secured in an approved manner. Roads, trails and other accessways that have been closed and obstructed in the manner prescribed by section 503.5 shall not be trespassed on or used unless authorized by the owner and the code official.

Exception: The restriction on use shall not apply to public officers acting within the scope of duty.

503.6 Security gates. Where security gates are installed, they shall be maintained and an approved means of emergency operation shall be provided and maintained.