

Why Are Fire Lanes so Important?

- ◆ During an emergency event, it is essential that emergency vehicles are provided with unobstructed access to the building or facility. Any obstructions can delay or even prevent adequate emergency operations from proceeding. The delay could cost someone's life.
- ◆ Fire apparatus and other emergency vehicles may be required to pass one-another when a fire engine is parked and hooked up to a hydrant. This may be to respond to the scene or exit the incident to respond to another emergency.
- ◆ Adequate working space is required around the fire engines.
- ◆ Our aerial ladder truck with the outriggers extended requires a nearly 20 foot width

Who is Responsible for Marking and Maintaining Fire Lanes on Private Property?

- ◆ The property owner

What's the Required Width of a Fire Lane?

- ◆ Minimum 20 feet clear and unobstructed

What is the Fine for Parking in a Fire Lane?

- ◆ \$75 and subject to towing
- ◆ The ordinance will be enforced by Police Department & Code Enforcement

When is Posting/Marking Required?

- ◆ Fire apparatus access roads 20-26 feet wide shall be posted on both sides of the road as a fire lane
- ◆ Fire apparatus access roads more than 26 feet wide to 32 feet wide shall be posted on one side of the road as a fire lane.

What about Parking in Front of a Fire Hydrant?

- ◆ It is illegal to park within 12 feet of a fire hydrant.



Posting/Marking of Fire Lanes

- ◆ **NO PARKING-FIRE LANE** signs may be spaced at 50-foot intervals long the fire lane and at fire department designated turn-around's. The signs shall have red letters on a white background stating "NO PARKING FIRE LANE".

For privately owned properties, posting/marketing of fire lanes may be accomplished by any of the following alternatives to the above requirement (consult with the Fire Department for the best option):

Alternative #1:

Curbs shall be painted red along the entire distance of the fire department access. Minimum 4" white letters stating "**NO PARKING-FIRE LANE**" shall be stenciled on the curb at 25- foot intervals.

Alternative #2:

Curbs shall be painted yellow along the entire distance of the fire department access. Minimum 4" black letters stating "**NO PARKING-FIRE LANE**" shall be stenciled on the curb at 25-foot intervals.

Alternative #3:

Asphalt shall be striped yellow or red along the entire distance of the fire department access. The stripes shall be at least 6" wide, be a minimum 24" apart, be placed at a minimum 30-60° angle to the perimeter stripes, and run parallel to each other. Letters stating "**NO PARKING-FIRE LANE**" shall be stenciled on the asphalt at 25-foot intervals.



Signs

Size:

- ◆ Minimum 12" wide x 18" high

Design:

- ◆ Provide one face engineering grade
- ◆ Reflectivity.
- ◆ Letters shall be red on white. The message shall be centered on a 12" by 18" sign blank and shall be oriented with the long axis vertical. The signs shall state:



- ◆ Sign blanks shall be constructed utilizing 0.080" thickness aluminum. The mounting holes shall be 3/8" diameter located along the vertical axis, and centered 1 1/2" from the top and bottom edge. The sign face shall have a red rounded border 1/2" wide centered 3/4" from the sign edge.

Height above Grade:

- ◆ 7 feet to bottom of sign

Post:

- ◆ The post shall be a galvanized steel square post, pre-punched, measuring 2" square by 10'0" long. There shall be a 2 1/8" square by 30" long galvanized steel square, pre-punched with 3/8" holes on 1" centers, anchor inserted into a 2 1/4" by 18" long square, pre-punched, galvanized steel sleeve forming a two piece anchor. The sleeve and the breakaway anchor shall be driven into the ground so that only 1" to 2" of the top is sticking out of the ground. The sleeve and breakaway anchor are then driven into the ground with a sledgehammer. The post is then inserted into the anchor and sleeve and an angel bolt secured it in place.

New York Fire Code References

503.1.1 Buildings 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 of all portions of the facility and all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of the building as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility.

503.2.1 Dimensions.

Fire apparatus access roads shall have a unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet (6096 mm), except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.6, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches (4115 mm).

503.2.3 Surface. Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus and shall be surfaced so as to provide all weather driving capabilities.

503.2.4 Turning radius. The required turning radius of a fire apparatus access road shall be determined by the fire code official.

503.2.5 Dead ends.

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

503.6 Security gates.

The installation of security gates across a fire apparatus access road shall be approved by the fire chief. Where security gates are installed, they shall have an approved means of emergency operation. The security gates and the emergency operation shall be maintained operational at all times.

New York Fire Code References

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 shall be maintained at all times.

FD103.6.1 Roads 20 to 26 feet in width.

Fire apparatus access roads 20 to 26 feet wide

FD103.6.2 Roads more than 26 feet in width.

Fire apparatus access roads more than 26 feet wide (7925 mm) to 32 feet wide (9754 mm) shall be posted on one side of the road as a fire lane.

503.3 Marking.

Where required by the fire code official, approved signs or other approved notices shall be provided for 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 is replaced or repaired when necessary to provide adequate visibility.

FD103.6 Signs.

Where required by the fire code official, fire apparatus access roads shall be marked with permanent **NO PARKING—FIRE LANE** signs complying with Figure D103.6. Signs shall have a minimum dimension of 12 inches (305 mm) wide by 18 inches (457 mm) high and have red letters on a white reflective background. Signs shall be posted on one or both sides of the fire apparatus road as required by Section D103.6.1 or D103.6.2.

For more information, contact the Cortland Fire Department Code Enforcement Division:
www.cortland.org

Fire Lanes



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