

FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS AND FIRE LANES Information



Tucson Fire Department
300 S. Fire Central Pl.
Tucson, AZ. 85701
(520) 791-4502



It is the commitment of the Tucson Fire Department to provide emergency services in a timely manner to all residents of the City of Tucson. In order to achieve this, fire apparatus access roads or fire lanes are established to provide emergency personnel access to buildings and facilities. This handout provides information on these fire apparatus access roads and lanes. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please call (520) 791-4502.

Definitions

FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROAD. A road that provides fire apparatus access from a fire station to a facility, building or portion thereof. This is a general term inclusive of all other terms such as fire lane, public street, private street, parking lot lane, and access roadway.

FIRE LANE. A road or other passageway developed to allow the passage of fire apparatus. A fire lane is not necessarily intended for vehicular traffic other than fire apparatus.

Requirements

The person in possession of the premises shall be responsible for ensuring that fire apparatus roadways are clear at all times. They shall also be responsible for the maintenance of the roadways and all required signs. No owner, manager, or other person in charge of the premises served by a required fire apparatus access roadway shall abandon or close the fire apparatus roadway or any part thereof without permission of the fire code official.

The required width of any fire apparatus access roadway on City or private property shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking, or stopping of any vehicle other than an authorized emergency vehicle. A vehicle parked illegally in a fire apparatus access roadway may be removed and impounded under the provisions of the Tucson Code. An owner or operator of a vehicle parked illegally in a fire apparatus access roadway or the person responsible for any non-vehicular obstruction shall be guilty of a civil infraction. The minimum widths and clearances established shall be maintained at all times.

A traffic citation may be issued to any vehicle parked within or blocking a posted fire lane. Vehicles may also be towed. Usually, towing will only be utilized after an attempt has been made to locate the owner, or when the situation dictates the immediate need to remove the vehicle. It is necessary to keep fire lanes clear at all times to provide fire and other emergency vehicles access to the area.

Location

- An approved fire apparatus access roads shall be provided for every facility, building or portion of a building as required by the Tucson Code in effect at the time the structure was constructed

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or moved into or otherwise required within the jurisdiction. The fire apparatus access road 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. The fire code official is authorized to increase the dimension of 150 feet where:

- The building is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system.
- Fire apparatus access roads cannot be installed because of location on property, topography, waterways, nonnegotiable grades or other similar conditions, and an approved alternative means of fire protection is provided.
- There are not more than two Group R-3 or Group U occupancies.
- The fire 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.

Specifications

- Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet, except for approved security gates, and have an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 15 feet.
- The fire code official shall have the authority to require an increase in the minimum access widths where they are inadequate for fire or rescue operations.
- Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus and shall be paved with structural sections designed in accordance with City of Tucson Development Standard.
- Fire apparatus access roads shall provide the required turning radius for a fire apparatus which is determined by the fire code official.
- Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet in length shall be provided with an approved area for turning around fire apparatus. The required turning radius of a fire apparatus access road shall be determined by the fire code official.
- 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 HB-17. 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 fire 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 fire code official.
- The grade of the fire apparatus access road shall be in accordance with City of Tucson Development Standard.

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Gates

- The fire code official is authorized to require the installation and maintenance of gates or other approved barricades across fire apparatus access roads, trails, or other access ways, not including public streets, alleys or highways.
- When required, gates and barricades shall be secured in an approved manner. Roads, trails and other access ways that have been closed shall not be trespassed on or used unless authorized by the owner and the fire code official, with the exception of public officers acting within the scope of duty.
- The installation of security gates across a fire apparatus access road shall be approved by the fire code official. 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.
- Gates that use electric or other means of power to automatically open or unlock shall have a manual override system. Manual override controls shall be located on the entrance side of gate, or when power has failed, the gates shall open and stay open until power is restored for normal operations.
- Gates or barricades securing the fire apparatus access roads shall comply with all of the following criteria:
 - The minimum gate width shall be 20 feet unobstructed.
 - Gates shall be of the swinging or sliding type.
 - Construction of gates shall be of materials that allow manual operation by one person.
 - Gate components shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times and replaced or repaired when defective.
 - Electric gates shall be equipped with a means of opening the gate by fire department personnel for emergency access on to the property or leaving the property.
 - Locking device specifications shall be submitted for approval to the fire code official.
 - Gates or barricades that are permanently secured for access reasons shall be posted with the approved fire access signs, on both sides of the gate or barricade.

Signs

- 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 shall be replaced or repaired when necessary to provide adequate visibility.
- Only fire apparatus access roadways required under the authority of the Tucson Fire Code or as approved by the Fire Chief may be posted or identified with the approved sign. Unauthorized signs shall be removed.

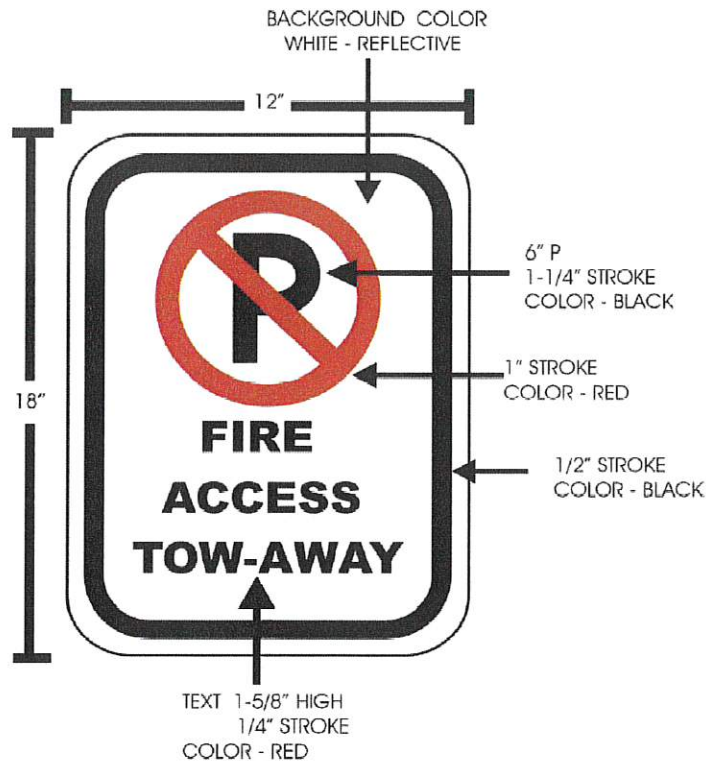
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- The required sign shall be the international NO PARKING sign with a standard sign size of 12 inches in width and 18 inches in height on a white reflective background. The international NO PARKING symbol shall be a black **P**, six inches high. Underneath the NO PARKING symbol, in one-and-five-eighths inch high and one-quarter inch stroke red lettering it shall read: **"FIRE ACCESS TOW-AWAY"**. *Existing signage, not complying with this design, may be approved by the fire code official.
- Fire apparatus access roads 20 to 28 feet wide shall be posted on both sides as a fire lane. Fire apparatus access roads greater than 28 and up to 36 feet wide shall be posted on one side of the road as a fire lane. Roads 34 feet or wider with wedge curbs on both sides, need not to be posted.



***Provided For Illustrative Purposes Only**

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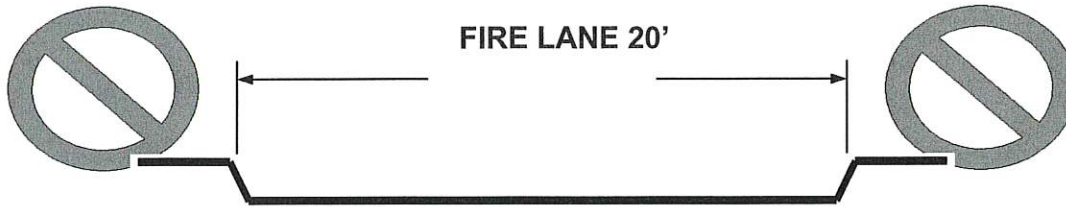


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Minimum Road Widths

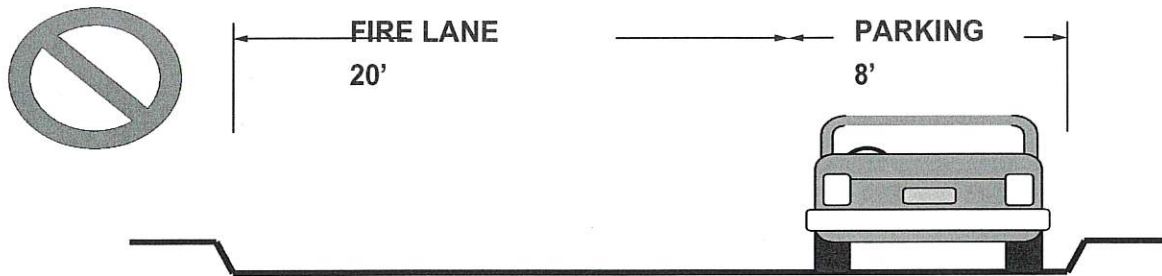
Measured from top face of curb to top face of curb or outside wedge curb.



IF ROADWAY LESS THAN 28'

ALL Parking prohibited.

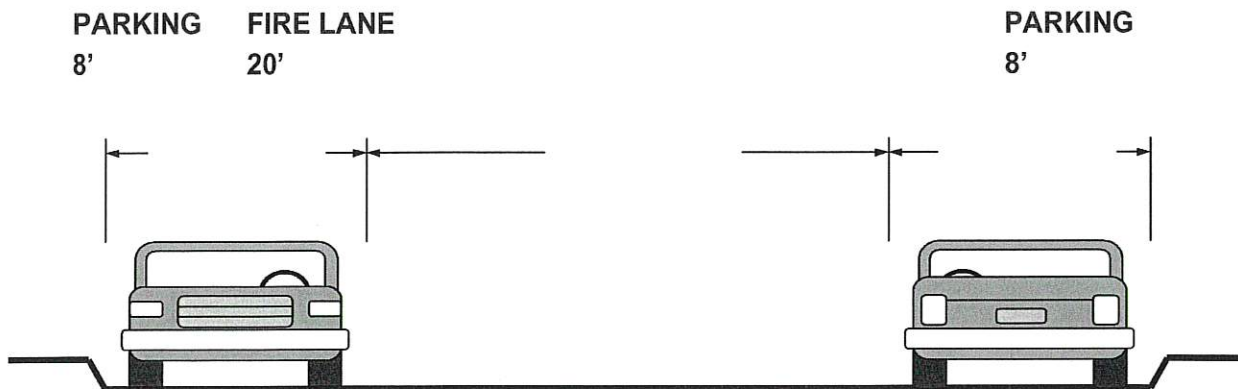
*Roadway is required to be posted as a fire lane on both sides.



IF ROADWAY AT LEAST 28', BUT LESS THAN 36'

Parking prohibited (one side).

*Roadway is required to be posted as a fire lane on one side



IF ROADWAY 36' OR WIDER

Parking allowed (both sides)

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