



DALLAS FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT
Inspection & Life Safety Education
Fire Code Requirements for
Fire Apparatus Access Roads (Fire Lanes)

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This handout delineates regulations governing marking and maintenance of **Fire Apparatus Access Roads**. If you have a particular question or concern, please telephone or FAX the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department.

1. DALLAS FIRE CODE, Chapter 5, Fire Department Access

- A. Fire apparatus access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including, but not limited to, automobiles, dumpsters, fencing, etc. (Limited access gates may be installed in accordance with the 2007 Dallas Fire Code, Appendix I.)
- B. An unauthorized vehicle in a fire apparatus access road is:
 - (1) Subject to removal by the operator of the premises at the expense of the registered owner of the vehicle.
 - (2) Subject to citation and/or removal by the chief or a police officer.
 - (3) Registration of the vehicle to the owner is prima facie evidence that the owner is guilty of the parking violation.
- C. No person may mark or otherwise identify any road that is not a fire apparatus access road as a fire lane.
- D. Construction documents for proposed fire apparatus access, fire lanes, fire hydrants and limited access gates shall be submitted to the Fire-Rescue Department for review and approval prior to construction.
- E. A \$75 fee will be charged to review plans for fire apparatus access roads and to review plans for limited access gates that obstruct fire apparatus access roads.

2. Vernon's Annotated Civil Statutes, Chapter 684. Removal of Unauthorized Vehicles From Parking Facility or Public Roadway.

Section 684.12. The owner of premises at or upon which a governmental body requires the designation and maintenance of a fire lane, or the agent of the owner, may have any motor vehicle that is parked in the fire lane, except an authorized emergency vehicle, removed and stored at the expense of the owner operator of the vehicle, if the fire lane is required by a governmental body having authority to require fire lanes and is conspicuously designated as a fire lane in compliance with requirements of the governmental body.

Section 684.083. The owner of the premises, or his agent, who has a vehicle removed and stored as provided in Section 1 of this Act is not liable for damages incurred by the owner or operator of the vehicle as a result of removal or storage if the vehicle is removed by a vehicle wrecker service insured against liability for property damage incurred in the storage of vehicles.

Acts 1995, 74th Leg., Ch. 165, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

FIRE LANE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

To meet the requirements of the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department for adequate horizontal emergency access, all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of the building and all portions of the facility must be within 150 feet of a public street or designated fire lane. This fire lane must have a width of at least 20 feet and an overhead clearance of at least 13 feet 6 inches. In addition, it must intersect with a dedicated street. If the fire lane exceeds 150 feet in length, it must intersect with a dedicated street at both ends, or end in a configuration conforming to one of the approved fire lane turnaround designs published in the 2007 Dallas Fire Code, Appendix D.

Designated fire lanes must be surfaced with a material substantial enough to support any fire department vehicle and must remain structurally unaffected by bad weather.

Either approved striping or signs shall be provided and maintained for fire apparatus access roads to identify such roads and to prohibit their obstruction.

When striping is utilized to mark a designated fire lane, the 6-inch wide red striping must be along the perimeter and contain the words "FIRE LANE NO PARKING" in 4-inch high white letters, at 25-foot intervals. (See Illustration 1)

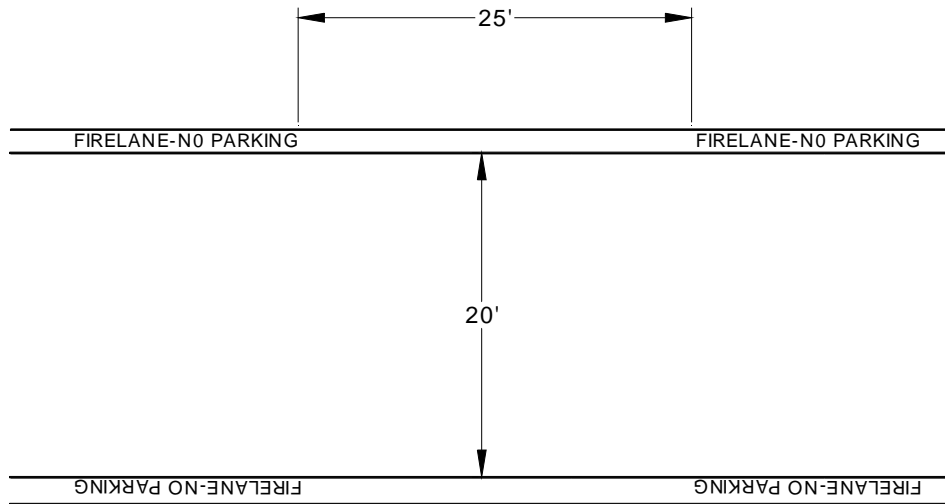


Illustration 1

When signs are utilized to mark designated fire apparatus access roads, the signs shall have 2-inch high red lettering, on a white background, reading "Fire Lane No Parking". The signs shall be affixed to stationary posts at no greater than 50-foot intervals along both sides of the fire lane. The bottom of each sign must be 6 feet 6 inches above finished grade. The signs shall have a minimum area of 12 inches by 18 inches. (See Illustration 2)

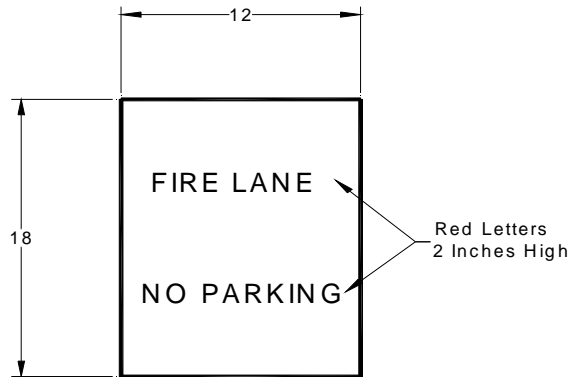


Illustration 2

Designated fire lanes must be kept free of all obstructions likely to interfere with fire department emergency activities. It is the responsibility of the operator of premises having a fire lane to maintain it in good condition, free of obstruction.