



**Manchester Fire Department
Eighth Utilities District
Fire Marshal's Office**
18 Main Street, Manchester, CT 06042
(860)643-6209 – Fax (860)646-8162



Guide for Fire Lanes and Fire Department Access Roads

Effective: 1/12/16

Referenced Codes and Standards:

- *Town of Manchester Ordinance 307 – 10*
- *Connecticut Fire Prevention Code Section 18.2*

Fire Lanes

Town of Manchester Ordinance 307-10 states:

“It shall be unlawful to park in any area that is marked out and posted as a fire lane, as required by the Fire Marshal, for any length of time. Such areas may include privately owned parking lots. The penalty for violating this sections shall be \$25”

Where required:

Fire Department Access Roads (aka “Fire Lanes”) are required to extend within 50 ft of a single exterior door providing access to the interior of the building. AHJ may create exception where there are not more than two one and two family dwellings or agriculture buildings. (18.2.2.1.1)

Fire department access roads shall be provided such that any portion of the exterior wall of the first floor of the building is not located more than 150 ft from a fire department access road as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building. This distance is increased to 450 ft in the presence of an approved automatic fire sprinkler system.

More than one fire department access road shall be provided when the AHJ determines a single road could be impaired by vehicle congestion, condition of terrain, climatic conditions, or other factors limiting access.

The required width of a fire department access road shall not be obstructed in any manner, including by the parking of vehicles. The property owner shall be responsible for maintenance and care of the access roads.

The AHJ shall be authorized to require in the installation of gates or access restricting devices as necessary.

Specifications

Fire department access roads shall have unobstructed width of not less than 20 ft and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 ft 6 in.

Dead end fire department access roads in excess of 150 ft in length shall be provided with approved provisions for the turning around of fire apparatus.



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Fire department access roads shall be designed to support imposed loads of fire apparatus and with a surface suitable for all weather driving capabilities. Turning radius of a fire department access road shall be as approved by the AHJ. Current dimensions used are a 48' truck with 21' wheelbase and 12' height. Roads shall be subject to approval by Manchester Engineering Division.

Marking

Vertical curbs six inches in height shall be painted yellow on the top and side, extending the length of the designated fire lane. Rolled curbs or surface without curbs shall have a yellow six inch wide stripe painted extending the length of the designated fire lane.

The prohibited fire lane area will be marked out from the curb with a four inch stripe into the travel portion of the restricted area, a uniform distance between three and four feet and parallel to the curb line. The pavement adjacent to the curb or strip shall be marked with block lettering a minimum of 24 inches in height and with a four inch brush stroke reading: "No Parking – Fire Lane". Lettering shall be yellow and spaced at no more than 50 foot intervals. In areas without lettering, a four inch stroke diagonal yellow line shall be placed every three feet.

Fire lane signs shall be as follows:

- Reflective in nature
- Use red letters on white background
- Use three inch lettering to read "No Parking – Fire Lane"
- A minimum of 12 inches wide by 18 inches tall
- Spaced no more than 50 feet apart and posted on or immediately next to the curb or side of the road
- Top of the sign to be not less than four feet nor more than seven feet from the ground
- Signs may be placed on a building when approved by the AHJ
- When posts are required for signs they shall be a minimum of two inch galvanized steel or four by four inch pressure treated wood or as approved by the AHJ