

NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Policy and Procedure Manual

FIRE PREVENTION
CODE ENFORCEMENT

SECTION 320.03
10/18/99
PAGE 1 OF 4

Fire Lane Designation

PURPOSE: To provide procedural guidelines for the delineation and enforcement of fire lanes.

POLICY: Local ordinance ([99-01, Section 901.4.2.1](#)) allows the AHJ to “designate existing roadways as fire access roadways consistent with CVC 22500.1, where it determines that such designation is necessary to ensure adequate fire access.” Determination is made by the Fire Marshal of whether additional or changed marking is necessary.

PROCEDURE:

- I. REVIEW OF EXISTING REQUIREMENTS. The Fire Marshal reviews the occupancy file or [building plans](#) to determine necessity of fire lane designation. The following are indications for fire lane designation:
 - A. Is a fire hydrant planned/does it exist on a roadway with abrupt curbing where parking is allowed?
 - B. Does the road in question meet the requirement of providing emergency access to within 150-foot hoseline stretch of all exterior portions of ground floor of buildings?
 - C. Does the roadway meet roadway width requirements in existence at the time it was constructed?
 - D. Will vehicles or other objects impinge upon the [minimum roadway width](#) required for fire department access? If so, can roadway width be increased to accommodate parking concerns?
 - E. Does another designated fire lane provide duplicate access?
 - F. Is the roadway currently properly marked per the fire code and CVC §22500.1?
 - G. Does the signed [Site Development Plan, TM or TPM](#) give indication of approved parking and designated fire access roads? Does the official map or plan show travel lanes which do not have parking spaces shown?

**NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Policy and Procedure Manual**

FIRE PREVENTION
CODE ENFORCEMENT

SECTION 320.03
10/18/99
PAGE 2 OF 4

Fire Lane Designation

- II. FIRE LANE APPROVAL. If a fire lane is approved, the following shall be conducted:
- A. The sign locations or curb/stripe markings are to be shown on a map prepared for the property owner or responsible party by the Fire Marshal. The map is to accompany a letter outlining the designation, actions necessary and timeframe for compliance.
 - B. The letter shall request a meeting at the site to go through the requirements with the owner representative and crew responsible for actual posting.
 - C. As the project reaches completion and all markings are in compliance with the codes, fire department policy and correspondence, the Fire Marshal shall take the following steps:
 - 1. Provide the owner's representative with adequate number of copies of a form letter notifying occupants and tenants of the marking and enforcement; and
 - 2. Ask the owner to circulate the letters to all tenants, employees or residents, and advise the Fire Marshal when notification is complete.
 - 3. Upon completion and approval of posting and circulation of the notification letter, advise all fire prevention personnel of the newly posted area.
- III. PRIVATE ROAD AGREEMENTS. Should the Fire Marshal determine that no fire lane is required, the RP shall be so notified. In the event that fire lane designation is still desired, and the roadway in question is a private road, the Fire Marshal shall require the following:
- A. RP to secure written permission approving a fire lane from all affected parties residing on the roadway.
 - B. RP to provide letters of permission to Fire Marshal for review.
 - C. Upon approval, follow steps outlined above for "fire lane approval."
 - D. RP to provide signage as described below, at expense of residents of private road agreement.

NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Policy and Procedure Manual

FIRE PREVENTION
CODE ENFORCEMENT

SECTION 320.03
10/18/99
PAGE 3 OF 4

Fire Lane Designation

IV. FIRE LANE DESIGNATION.

A. Signage. Refer to the following for placement of fire lane signs. Refer to the [Fire Lane Sign Standard](#) for additional information.

1. In single family residential areas, standard signs are used primarily, unless curbing is available.
2. Signs to state "NO PARKING FIRE LANE CVC 22500.1"
3. Signs may be alternated on opposite sides of the street, but shall be double faced (facing both directions), and shall be installed so as to be clearly visible from vehicles traveling on the roadway (same orientation as highway signs)
4. Spacing of signs is based on the criteria of being visible from the place where parking is prohibited. As a guide, 250 foot spacing on alternate sides of straight roadways is usually adequate. Closer spacing may be necessitated by curves, intersections or obstructions.

B. Curbing. Refer to the following for marking of curbing.

1. In multi-family and all commercial projects (including educational and institutional) red curbs and red stripes are used.
2. Curbing to painted red, with the following stenciled every 50': "NO PARKING FIRE LANE" in 4" white letters with a ½" stroke.
3. In areas where no curb exists, the edge of the fire lane shall be marked with an 8" wide red stripe. In addition, a diagonal 8" wide red stripe may be required between the edges of the fire lane, with the diagonal stripe connecting the stripes or curbs at the edges of the fire lane. Spacing of the diagonal stripe is every 50'.
4. Unless necessitated by abuse, red striping is not used adjacent to marked parallel, angle or straight-in parking spaces, unless a fire hydrant resides along a section of curbing.

**NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Policy and Procedure Manual**

FIRE PREVENTION
CODE ENFORCEMENT

SECTION 320.03
10/18/99
PAGE 4 OF 4

Fire Lane Designation

5. Curbing in front of a fire hydrant is designated as a fire lane 15' on either side of the hydrant. Maintenance of this curbing is the responsibility of S.D. Co. Public Works, unless it is a private roadway.
 6. Areas in front of carports or garages are striped on new projects, and are added to existing projects with demonstrated repeated abuse of this area.
 7. Parallel red lines with stencil are used to delineate fire lanes within large open spaces, such as delivery docks or storage yards.
 8. Planter curbs and areas in front of dumpsters along the fire lane are red curbed or red striped. Be aware of other areas within the designated fire lane that become invitations to park if they are not striped.
 9. Exercise care that marking of curbed surfaces such as planters does not extend into legitimate parking spaces.
 10. Difficult or potentially controversial situations shall be reviewed with the Fire Marshal before official notification of the property owner of specific marking.
- V. ENFORCEMENT. Citizens calling to request enforcement of posted fire lanes shall be referred to the [Sheriff's Department](#). "Patrolling" for parking violations is a Code Enforcement activity, and shall not be done by Fire Inspectors or Fire Code Enforcement Officers.