



ANDOVER FIRE RESCUE

FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS STANDARD

With the interest of preservation of life and property in mind, Andover Fire Rescue has developed this standard to inform the interested persons of our specific needs for access to and around proposed buildings being constructed or remodeled, having a change of use, or going through other significant modifications.

The Fire Department deals with many different types of emergencies; accordingly, we have a variety of different vehicles. Some are very large and require much more area to maneuver and operate than most others. For example, ladder trucks are 50 feet in length and when set up to operate with outriggers deployed, they can exceed 18 feet in width. Also the number of vehicles needed on an incident and the room to quickly accommodate multiple apparatus is crucial.

BOARD OF FIRE PREVENTION REGULATIONS ▪ 527 CMR 10.03 FIRE LANES:

(a) *Designation* The head of the fire department shall require and designate public or private fire lanes as deemed necessary for the efficient and effective use of fire apparatus. Fire lanes shall have a minimum width of 18 feet.

(b) *Obstructions* Designated fire lanes shall be maintained free of obstructions and vehicles and marked in an approved manner.

(c) *Maintenance* All designated fire lane signs or markings shall be maintained in a clean and legible condition at all times and replaced when necessary to insure adequate visibility.

FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADWAYS:

- A Minimum 20-foot unobstructed width. Widths are measured curb face to curb face or, where there are no curbs, edge of pavement to edge of pavement.
- Unobstructed height clearance of 14 feet.
- All roadways proposed for fire department access shall be engineered and constructed of an all-weather driving surface of asphalt or concrete able to support the weight of fire apparatus. The term “H-20 loading” is used in our comments regarding roadway.
- Integrity means a roadway surface is capable of supporting a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 80,000 pounds.

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- Alternative methods such as brick or cobblestone may be considered on a case-by-case basis. A professional civil engineer must certify, in writing, that the design and installation meets the “H-20” requirement. Access roadways designed to incorporate.
- Materials that allow grass to grow through or upon the surface are not allowed. All surfaces shall be maintainable in all weather conditions, including snow removal.
- Turning radius shall meet Andover Fire Rescue specifications, 50 foot outside radius and 32 foot inside radius. (Template available at www.andoverps.net)
- Any access-limiting devices, if employed, must be approved.
- All required emergency access roads, including industrial roadways, sub-division roadways, and public/private ways shall be constructed to binder pavement course before commencement of above-ground construction.
- Approved “**NO PARKING – FIRE LANE**” signs shall be provided along the curbs where parking could obstruct the minimum width and turning radius or access.