



Terrell Fire Department
Fire Marshal's Office
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Requirements for Fire Lanes

All Fire Lanes, Fire Access Roads, and Gates which cross fire lanes/access roads must be designed, located, and maintained in accordance with the 2021 IFC, NFPA, & adopted NCTCOG amendments. All work shall be permitted.

- Construction documents for proposed fire lanes, apparatus access roads, and gates which cross fire lanes/fire access roads shall be submitted to the Terrell Fire Department and receive approval prior to installation or construction. (IFC 501.3)
- All fire lanes and fire access roads shall be constructed using reinforced concrete unless other methods are approved by the fire code official. (COD 5.5(b))
- Fire lanes shall be marked as follows: Marking – Striping, signs, or other markings when approved by the fire code official, shall be provided for fire apparatus access roads to identify such roads or prohibit the obstruction thereof. Striping, signs, and other markings shall be maintained in a clean and legible condition at all times and be replaced or repaired when necessary to provide adequate visibility.
 - (1) Striping – Fire apparatus access roads shall be continuously marked by painted lines of red traffic paint six inches (6”) in width to show the boundaries of the lane. The words “NO PARKING FIRE LANE” or “FIRE LANE NO PARKING” shall appear in four inch (4”) white letters at 25 feet intervals on the red border markings along both sides of the fire lanes. Where a curb is available, the striping shall be on the vertical face of the curb.
 - (2) Signs – Signs shall read “NO PARKING FIRE LANE” or “FIRE LANE NO PARKING” and shall be 12” wide and 18” high. Signs shall be painted on a white background with letters and borders in red, using not less than 2” lettering. Signs shall be permanently affixed to a stationary post and the bottom of the sign shall be six feet, six inches (6’6”) above finished grade. Signs shall be spaced not more than fifty feet (50’) apart along both sides of the fire lane. Signs may be installed on permanent buildings or walls or as approved by the Fire Chief. (IFC 503.3 Amendment)
- Fire apparatus roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed load of 85,000 lbs. for fire apparatus and shall be surfaced so as to provide all weather driving capabilities. (IFC 503.2.3)
- Fire apparatus roads/fire lanes shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 24ft., exclusive of shoulders, except for approved security gates in accordance with 503.6, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 14ft. (IFC 503.2.1 Amendment)
- Fire lanes and fire access roads shall have a minimum interior turning radius of thirty (30) feet and an exterior turning radius fifty (50) feet. TCSS

- When dead-end fire lanes/access roads exist in excess of 150 ft. an approved area in compliance with IFC D 103.1 shall be provided.
- Each FDC shall have a metal sign with raised white letters of a 1in. minimum indicating what the connection servers – for example, AUTOSPKR, OPEN SPKR, STANDPIPE, etc... (IFC 912.5)
- The standard for construction of a fire lane is provided for reference. However, there are various construction methods which will achieve the required rating. A document from a licensed engineer must be provided for designs which differ from our standard which states the design meets or exceeds the required standard of supporting 85,000lbs. (IFC 503.2.3 Amendment)

The minimum fire lane pavement section shall consist of 6 inches of Class C (six sack) concrete with a minimum 28-day compressive strength of 3,600 psi, #4 rebar on 16 in centers, on top approved subgrade. P.I. must be less than 15. The subgrade shall be compacted to a minimum moisture content of +2 higher than optimum at a density of at least 95% of ASTM D-698. Two additional inches of concrete can be substituted for six inches of lime-treated subgrade. Multiple geo tech reports have found high levels of sulfates in the soil in this area. Treating high sulfate soil with lime is not recommended. Soil should be tested prior to design and construction. Refer to the City of Terrell Engineering Department Standards. Whenever 40 percent of the existing nonconforming fire lane is replaced within a 12-month period, the entire fire lane shall be replaced according to current standards.

- Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet shall be provided with an approved area for turning around apparatus. (IFC 503.2.5)
- The means by which fire lanes are designated shall be maintained in a clean and legible condition at all times and be replaced or repaired when necessary to provide adequate visibility. (IFC 503.3)

TFD Fire Lane Requirements 4/24/2023