



SELKIRK FIRE RESCUE & EMS

REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS

The following standard identifies the requirements for Fire District vehicle access. Where noted, contact Selkirk Fire for further information and approval.

1. **Access and loading.** Facilities, buildings or portions of buildings hereafter constructed shall be accessible to fire department apparatus by way of an approved fire apparatus access road with an asphalt, concrete or other approved driving surface capable of supporting the imposed load of fire apparatus weighing at least 90,000 pounds or as otherwise determined by the Fire Code Official.
2. **Minimum clear width.** The minimum clear width of fire department access roads shall be 20 feet for commercial. This width may be increased based upon specific department operations and/or apparatus (generally no more than 25 feet). The minimum for residential shall be 12 feet.
3. **Minimum clear height.** Vertical clearance over required vehicular access roads and driveways shall be 13'6". Vertical clearances shall be increased when in the opinion of the Fire Code Official, vertical clearances are not adequate to provide fire apparatus access.
4. **Grade.** Fire apparatus access roads shall not exceed 10% in grade, unless approval is granted by the Fire Code Official prior to construction.
5. **Turning radius.** The minimum turning radius shall be determined by the Fire Code Official. However, generally those are:

20 foot road – Minimum inside turning radius of 30

24 foot road – Minimum inside turning radius of 30

26 foot road – Minimum inside turning radius of 27

6. **Dead ends.** Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet shall be provided with width and turnaround provisions as detailed in the Fire Code.

Residential driveways in subdivisions and on platted properties in excess of 150 feet shall require a 12 foot width and turnaround provisions as detailed in the Fire Code.

7. **Parking.** When parking is permitted on streets, in both residential/commercial applications, it shall conform to the following:

- Parking is permitted on both sides of the street with street widths of 36 feet or more
- Parking is permitted on one side of the street with street widths of 28 – 35 feet
- No parking is permitted when street widths are less than 28 feet

NOTE: Where rolled curbs are a part of the curb/sidewalk, the width of fire department access roads is measured from flow line to flow line. Flow line is the lowest continuous elevation on a rolled curb street

Additional requirements may apply for buildings 30 feet in height or greater than 62,000 square foot.

- See requirements under item 18, Aerial Fire Apparatus Access Roads

- 8. Access to a hydrant.** Fire hydrants located on a public or private street, or on-site, shall have an unobstructed clearance of not less than 30 feet (15 feet either side of hydrant).
- 9. Bollards.** Bollards *when used to limit access to the roadway* shall be moveable or fold-over type. ‘Lift-out’ or knocked-down types are not allowed. Hydraulic type bollards are allowed under special conditions only. All bollards shall be approved by the Fire Code Official prior to installation.
- 10. Traffic calming.** Traffic calming devices and the design thereof shall be approved by the Fire Code Official prior to installation.
- 11. Alternate paving material.** Alternative paving materials such as gravel, block or similar type material may be used for emergency vehicle access (EVA) under certain conditions.

12. Gates.

No gate may be installed across a required fire department access road without prior approval from the Fire Code Official. A detailed plan shall be submitted for review and approval prior to commencing any work.

Security gates equipped with electronic control devices shall have an approved fire department override key switch (Knox) and shall allow operation of the gate during power outages. Forms for ordering fire department approved key switches and padlocks can be obtained from the Fire District or the Knox Website.

Manual locking mechanisms, such as padlocks, shall be Knox brand only.

- 13. Separation of access roads.** Where two access roads are required, they shall be placed a distance apart equal to not less than one half of the length of the maximum overall diagonal dimension of the property or area to be served, measured in a straight line between accesses (i.e. from centerline to centerline).

14. Fire Apparatus Access Roadway Signs. Where required by the Fire Code Official, fire apparatus access roads shall be designated and marked as a fire lane.

15. Commercial and Industrial Developments.

- a) **Buildings exceeding three stories or 30 feet in height.** Buildings or facilities exceeding 30 feet (or three stories in height) shall have at least two means of fire apparatus access for each structure.
- b) **Buildings exceeding 62,000 square feet in area.** Buildings or facilities having a gross building area of more than 62,000 square feet (5760 mm) shall be provided with two separate and approved fire apparatus access roads.

16. Residential Developments.

Projects having more than 20 dwelling units. Residential projects having more than 20 dwelling units shall be equipped throughout with two separate and approved fire apparatus access roads.

18. Aerial Fire Apparatus Access Roads.

- a) **Where required by the Fire Code Official.** Buildings or portions of buildings or facilities exceeding 30 feet in height above the lowest level of fire department vehicle or greater than 62,000 square feet; access shall be provided with approved fire apparatus access roads capable of accommodating fire department aerial apparatus. Overhead utility and power lines shall not be located within the aerial fire apparatus access roadway.
- b) **Width.** Fire apparatus access roads shall have a minimum unobstructed width of 26 feet in the immediate vicinity of any building or portion of building more than 30 feet in height or greater than 62,000 square feet.
- c) **Proximity to building.** At least one of the required access routes meeting this condition shall be located within a minimum of 15 feet and a maximum of 30 feet from the building and shall be positioned parallel to one entire side of the building, as approved by the Fire Code Official.

For more information contact:

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