

**Fire Prevention Division**

**Guideline No. 10.006**

**September 10, 1992**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS ROADS**

**A. Scope and Purpose**

To provide a policy for Fire Apparatus Access Roads within the City of Federal Way and the City of Des Moines.

**B. Code Authority**

Washington Administrative Code 51-24-10201, International Fire Code section 102, City of Federal Way Ordinance 90-61, and City of Des Moines Ordinance

**C. Special Provisions**

1. Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than twenty (20') feet and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than thirteen (13') feet six (6") inches.  

Vertical clearances or widths shall be increased when, in the opinion of the chief, vertical clearances or widths are not adequate to provide fire apparatus access.

EXCEPTION: When buildings are completely protected with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system, the provisions of this policy may be modified by the chief.
2. Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed load of a twenty-five (25) ton fire apparatus and shall be provided with a surface as follows:
  - a. Commercial: Paved all-weather driving surface.
  - b. Residential: All-weather driving surface.
3. The turning radius of a fire apparatus access road shall be as follows:
  - a. Not less than a thirty-two (32') foot inside turning radius.
  - b. Not less than a forty (40') foot outside turning radius.
4. Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of one-hundred-fifty (150') feet in length shall be provided with approved provisions for the turning around of fire apparatus.
  - a. All fire apparatus access roads serving commercial properties which have dead-ends in excess of one-hundred-fifty (150') feet in length shall be provided with a cul-de-sac at the dead-end. All such cul-de-sacs shall not be less than eighty (80') feet in diameter.
  - b. All fire apparatus access roads serving residential properties which have dead-ends in excess of one-hundred-fifty (150') feet in length shall be provided with a cul-de-sac at the dead-end. All such cul-de-sacs shall be not less than eighty (80') feet in diameter.
  - c. All fire apparatus access roads serving a single residential property which have a dead-end in excess of one-hundred-fifty (150') feet in length shall be provided with a turn-around approved by the chief.
5. When a bridge is required to be used as access under this policy, it shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the applicable sections of the Building Code and shall be designed live loading sufficient to carry the imposed loads of fire apparatus.

6. The gradient for a fire apparatus access road shall not exceed:
  - a. 12 percent to a commercial building or facility.
  - b. 15 percent to a residential building or facility.
7. When required, approved signs or other approved notices shall be provided and maintained for fire apparatus access roads to identify such roads and prohibit the obstruction thereof.
8. Plans for fire apparatus access roads shall be submitted to the Fire Prevention Division for review and approval prior to construction.
9. The required width of fire apparatus access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking of vehicles. Minimum required widths and clearances as adopted shall be maintained at all times.