



Fire Code Requirements for New Construction

This document summarizes some of the fire code requirements for new construction to assist in the planning and design of construction projects.

Fire Access Roads

Fire access roads are required for all buildings when exterior walls are more than 150 feet from fire department vehicle access, as measured by an unobstructed approved route around the exterior of the building.

ACCESS ROAD REQUIREMENTS

- Access roads shall have 20 feet minimum curb-to-curb paved width, and an unobstructed height of 13 feet 6 inches. Buildings or portions of buildings exceeding 30 feet in height above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access must be capable of accommodating fire aerial apparatus, and shall have a minimum unobstructed width of 26 feet. Overhead utility and power lines shall not be located within aerial fire apparatus roadway. 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 parallel to one entire side of the building.
- Required width of access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner. Parking shall not be allowed along roadways less than 28 feet in width. Parking is not allowed in turnarounds. The entire area of required turnarounds shall remain unobstructed at all times.
- Any fire access road longer than 150 feet shall be provided with a turnaround at the end with either a cul-de-sac having a turning radius of 45 feet, or another type of approved turnaround such as a hammerhead. Examples are illustrated in the appendix to the *Minnesota State Fire Code*.
- Fire access roads must support the weight of emergency vehicles on an all weather basis.
- Fire access roads shall be marked with permanent **NO PARKING –FIRE LANE** signs.
- Fire access roads and specifications for compliance shall be shown on construction documents submitted with building permit application for review by the Fire Marshal.

Fire Hydrants

- No structure shall be more than 300 feet travel distance from a fire hydrant. Exceptions: Group R-3 and Group U occupancies, the distance shall be 400 feet. For buildings equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system, the distance shall be 400 feet.

- Where a fire hydrant is located on a fire apparatus road, the minimum road width shall be 26 feet.
- Fire hydrant locations, existing and proposed new hydrants, with dimensioned distance to buildings shall be shown on the site plans submitted with building permit application.

Miscellaneous

- New and existing buildings shall have approved address numbers placed in position to be plainly visible from street or road fronting property. These numbers shall contrast with their background.
- Fire protection equipment and rooms containing critical equipment must be identified. (for example, rooms containing air conditioning controls, sprinkler risers and valves, fire alarm panel, or other suppression or control elements).
- Fire department connection (FDC) locations shall be on the address side of the building, unless approved by the Fire Marshal.
- A minimum of 3 feet of clearance shall be maintained at all times around the circumference of fire hydrants, fire extinguishing equipment, standpipe outlets, etc.
- The number and location of Fire Department lock box(s) shall be determined by the Fire Marshal. Mounting height of the key box shall be 6 feet to the bottom of the box from grade.