



FIRE-MEDICAL DEPT

Guideline

Date: September 22, 2011 (revised 7/31/19)

To: All Residential Property Managers / Owners / Tenants

From: Peoria Fire-Medical Department – Fire Prevention Division

Subject: Blocking or Obstructions of Fire Lanes

In response to concerns from our Fire Crews, this guideline will detail what the requirements and limitations are for maintaining clear and open fire lanes around residential communities. All references in this guideline are taken from the 2018 edition of the *International Fire Code*, local City of Peoria amendments, Peoria City Code and **are currently in effect now**. The need to have clear and open fire lanes is imperative to allow emergency services personnel to respond quickly, whether that emergency is a fire or a medical emergency. These requirements and limitations are in place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and apply to all roadways within your community. **Please share this memo with all of your residents.**

- Section 502.1 of the *International Fire Code* defines a fire lane as a fire apparatus access road that is required for passage of fire apparatus. Fire operations can also be conducted from a fire lane. This includes any public street, private street, parking lot or access roadway that the fire apparatus may drive on.
- Section 503.1.1 of the *International Fire Code* requires that fire lanes be provided for every building within a jurisdiction. The fire lanes are generally identified during the planning and construction phase of a project, however, Section 102.1(5) allows the Fire Code Official to change/add to the requirements should there be a distinct hazard to life or property. The fire lanes are the streets within your community.
- Section 503.2.1 of the *International Fire Code* states that the **minimum unobstructed** width of a fire lane is to be twenty (20) feet and shall be clear to a height of thirteen (13) feet, six (6) inches. This requirement increases to twenty six (26) feet in width where a fire hydrant is present. This is to include preventing the encroachment of storage and landscaping into the fire lane.
- Section 503.3 of the *International Fire Code* requires that the fire lanes be marked. Our local ordinance requires that the fire lanes be marked by either red painted curbing with four (4) inch white letters on the vertical face that state “No Parking – Fire Lane” or vertical signs that state the same requirement. The signs and/or the curb marking are to be placed a maximum of eighty (80) feet on center. This section also requires that the curbing and/or signs to be maintained. If the curbing and/or signs are missing, damaged or faded, it shall be corrected.

- Section 503.4 of the *International Fire Code* and local amendments requires that the fire lanes shall not be obstructed in any manner. This is to include the parking or stopping of vehicles.
- Section D103.6.1 of the *International Fire Code* requires that fire apparatus access roads that are between the minimum of twenty (20) feet in width to a maximum of twenty six (26) in width be marked as no parking on both sides.
- Section D103.6.2 of the *International Fire Code* requires that fire apparatus roads that exceed twenty six (26) feet in width and up to thirty two (32) feet in width be marked as no parking on one side.
- Section 503.2.4 of the *International Fire Code* and local amendments stipulates what the turning radius of the fire apparatus is for maneuvering purposes. This can require parking restrictions in areas such as sharp turns and turn around areas to aid in the maneuvering of the fire apparatus.
- Enforcement of Fire Code regulations is authorized by adoption of the *International Fire Code* under Section 9-31 of the Peoria City Code.
- Enforcement of parking violations are addressed in Chapter 14 and specifically under Section 14-106 of the Peoria City Code.

Successes or failures in an emergency can be measured in seconds. Cooperation in this matter will go along way in improving the safety for all within your community. Questions regarding this matter can be directed to the Fire Prevention Office of the Peoria Fire-Medical Department at (623) 773-7275.