



GUIDELINES FOR EMERGENCY ACCESS

Arcadia Fire Prevention Bureau

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Purpose

The purpose of this guide is to provide information necessary to ensure that the design of emergency fire access roadways and fire lane requirements meets the applicable regulations and standards. These provisions allow the emergency resources to respond to an incident in a safe and effective manner. The Arcadia Fire Department, Arcadia Police Department and property owners are responsible for enforcing these requirements from the 2010 California Fire Code (CFC) and the California Vehicle Code (CVC).

Scope

This guideline is applicable to all emergency access roadways, whether public or private. It includes the requirements for emergency access roadway design, signage and striping requirements and provisions for enforcement.

Enforcement

Enforcement of requirements pertaining to fire apparatus access roads and fire lanes is a joint effort between the Arcadia Fire Department, Arcadia Police Department, property owners and property management associations.

A homeowners association or property owner designated as the primary enforcement representative is responsible to provide, install, and maintain the required signs and red curbs on approved access roads and fire lanes. Property owners, managers, or a homeowners association representative may have illegally parked vehicles towed from fire lanes in accordance with CVC 22658(a). The property owner, manager, or homeowners association representative shall be present at the time of towing to provide an authorization signature.

Designation of Fire Lanes

Pre-construction plans for proposed residential or commercial developments shall be reviewed by the Arcadia Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau prior to commencement of construction. After this review, all required fire lanes shall be identified and designated. Upon completion of construction, a field inspection shall be conducted by FPB personnel to verify compliance with these guidelines.

The Arcadia Fire Department may issue a correction notice to property owners or managers of an existing occupancy to provide improved access if a deficiency is identified. The owner or property manager may be required to submit plans for the proposed additions or modifications.

Property owners or managers of existing occupancies seeking clarification of fire department access issues on their property may request FPB personnel to visit their location. At that time, a Fire Inspector may designate any required fire lanes and have them identified as such.

Fire Apparatus Access Roads/Streets Design

Fire apparatus access roads are required for every building when any portion of an exterior wall of the first story is located more than 150 feet from fire access as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building.

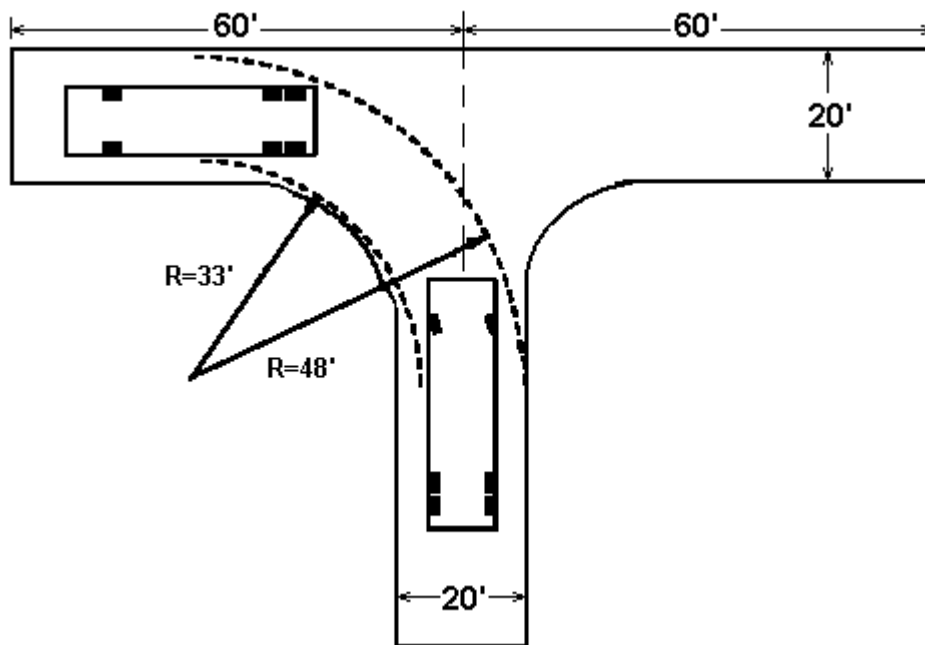
More than one road may be required when it is determined that access by a single road may be impaired by vehicle congestion, condition of terrain, weather conditions which could result in dangerous situations or other factors that could limit access.

Access road width shall be 20 feet minimum where no hydrant is provided and 26 feet minimum when a hydrant is provided. Access roads shall have an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13' 6".

Roads must be constructed of a material that provides an all weather driving surface and capable of supporting the 75,000 pounds imposed load for fire apparatus. Calculations stamped and signed by a registered professional engineer (RPE) shall certify that the proposed surface meets the criteria of an all-weather driving surface and is capable of withstanding the weight of 75,000 pounds.

The gradient for access roads shall not exceed 10%.

The inside turning radius for an access road shall be 33' or greater. The outside turning radius for an access road shall be a minimum of 48'. Cul-de-sacs with center obstructions (islands) will require a larger turning radius, as approved by the Chief.



Hammerhead Turnaround

Dead-end access roads in excess of 150' in length shall be designed and constructed to accommodate turning radii of fire apparatus. Turnarounds shall meet the turning radius requirements identified above as well as local standards for cul-de-sac design. The minimum cul-de-sac radius is 48' without parking.

All gates on access roads shall be provided with an approved means of access such as a Knox box or Knox switch. Minimum gate opening width shall be 16 feet.

48' TRUCK OVERHANG

1"=60'

33' TRUCK INSIDE WHEEL

1"=30'

1"=100'

1"=10'

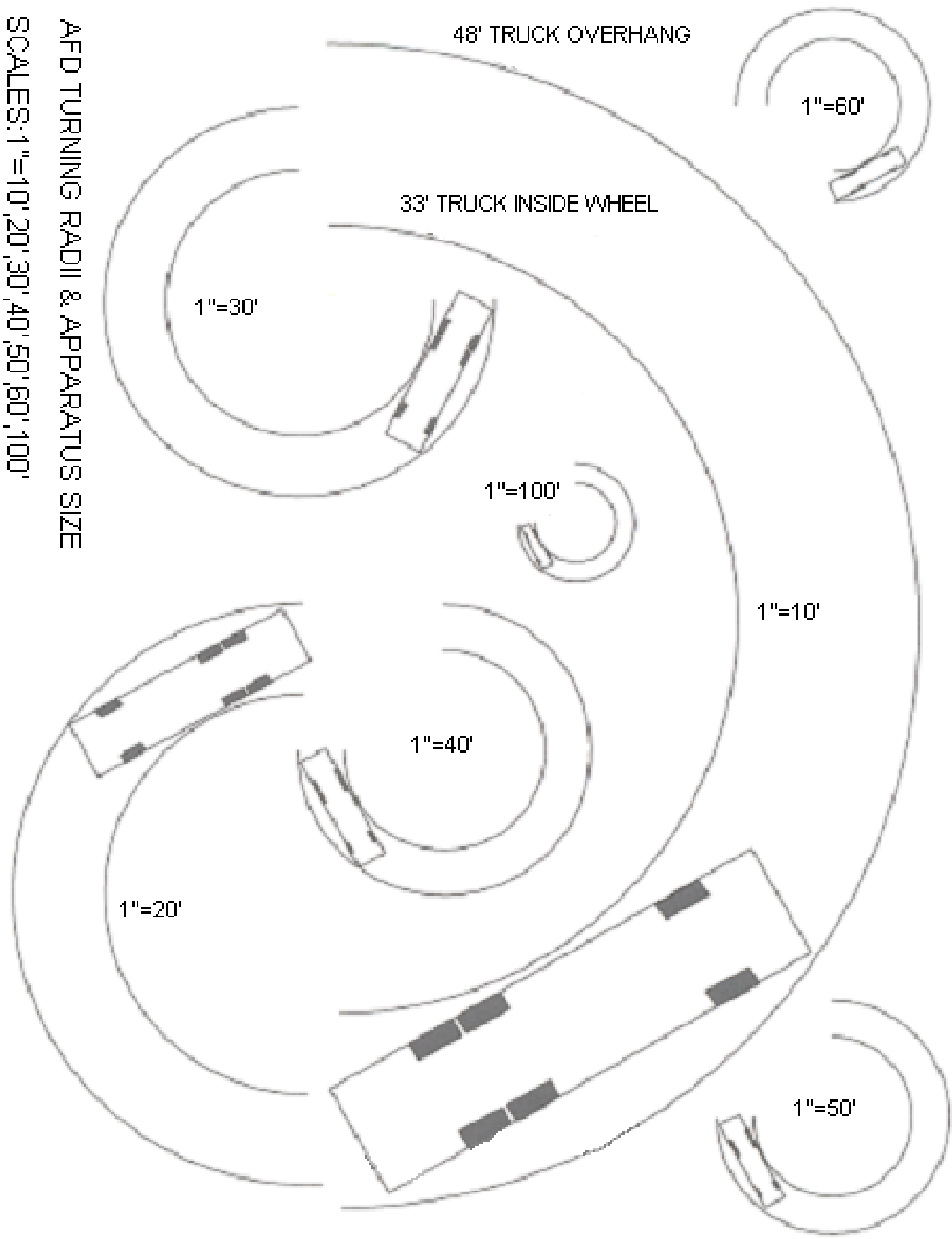
1"=40'

1"=20'

1"=50'

AFD TURNING RADIi & APPARATUS SIZE

SCALES: 1"=10', 20', 30', 40', 50', 60', 100'



Fire Lane Parking Violations

CVC 22500 specifies rules of the road for stopping, standing and parking. In addition, Section 22500.1 regulates the following:

1. No person shall stop, park, or leave standing any vehicle whether attended or unattended, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a peace officer or official traffic control device along the edge of any highway, at any curb, or in any location in a publicly or privately owned or operated off-street parking facility, designated as a fire lane by the Arcadia Fire Department. The designation shall be indicated by:
 - a. A sign posted immediately adjacent to, and visible from, the designated location clearly stating in letters not less than one inch in height that the location is a fire lane.
 - b. Outlining or painting the place in red and, in contrasting color, marking the place with the words "FIRE LANE", which are clearly visible from a vehicle.
 - c. A red curb or red paint on the edge of the roadway upon which is clearly marked the words "FIRE LANE".

Signage Requirements

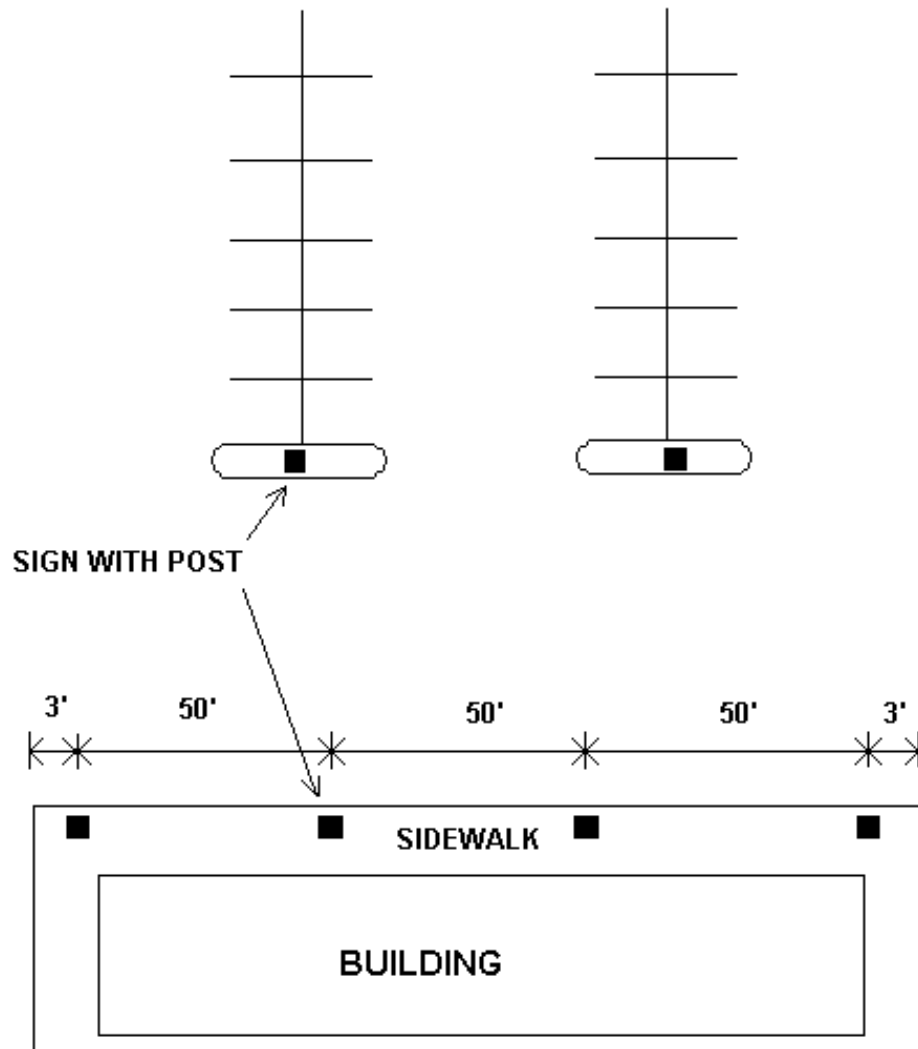
Fire Lane Marking

Once an area has been designated a fire lane by the Arcadia Fire Department, an acceptable method of marking the area must be approved prior to installation. There are a number of options available for fire lane marking based on the conditions found at a particular site. More than one option may be necessary to address specific needs. The following are examples of acceptable options for signage and marking:

Sign Locations

Signs are required within 3'-0" of the end of each designated fire lane and spaced a minimum of 50'-0" along the entire designated lane. One sign is required for each island adjacent to the fire lane. Signs shall face oncoming traffic. Field inspectors will determine if signs or sign locations are appropriate.

Sign Locations (continued)





The words FIRE LANE shall be white reflective on red background or red on white reflective background.

The sign shall be no smaller than 12 inches wide by 18 inches high.

The sign shall be securely mounted facing the direction of travel and clearly visible to oncoming traffic entering the designated area. Access roads greater than 20 feet in width shall have signs posted on both sides. Signs shall be of durable material and installed as noted in guidelines for Sign Mounting.



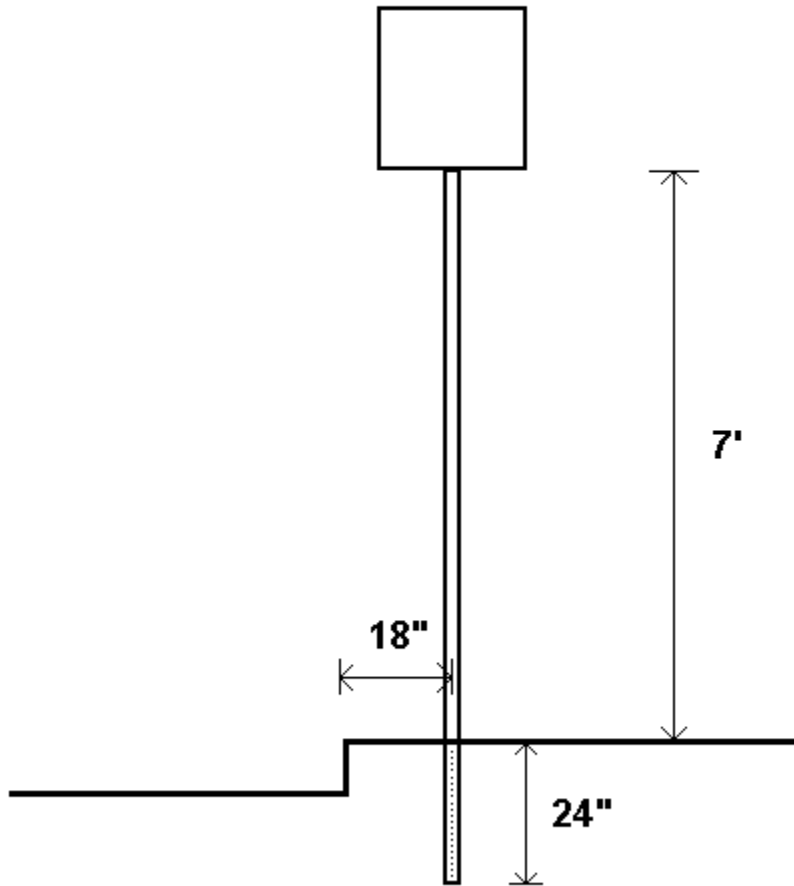
This sign shall be installed at all driveway entrances and at intervals of not less than 100 feet along all designated fire lanes.

The words FIRE LANE shall be white reflective on red background or red on white reflective background.

The sign shall be no smaller than 12 inches wide by 18 inches high.

The sign shall securely mounted facing the direction of travel and clearly visible to oncoming traffic entering the designated area. Signs shall be of durable material and installed per guidelines for Sign Mounting.

Fire Lane Sign Mounting

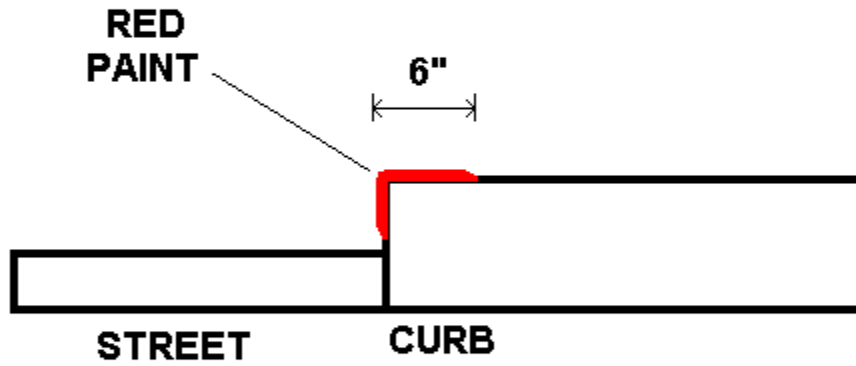


Height of sign in sidewalk or pedestrian areas shall be 7 feet.

Depth of sign shall be 18 inches from the face of the curb to center of post.

Bury depth shall be a minimum of 24 inches.

Curb Painting



Curbs along access lanes shall be painted OSHA Safety Red up to a minimum 6 inch depth.

"FIRE LANE NO PARKING" shall be painted on top of curb in white lettering 3 inches high and shall be spaced 30'-0" on center or portion thereof.