



Ketchum Fire Department

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Board's Lower Ranch Subdivision Home Owners Association
Board of Directors
P.O. Box 4393
Ketchum, ID 83340-4393

Re: Private Roads and Driveways

Dear Directors:

Private Roads and driveways are considered Fire Apparatus Access Roadways which are required to meet minimum standards specified in the International Fire Code (IFC) Chapter 5 and IFC Appendix D, attached hereto. In summary the code requires a minimum all season width of 20 feet with load bearing capacity of 75,000 pounds.

As Chief of Fire and Emergency Services I receive requests from insurance companies for verification of fire access. Most of the roads in the Board's Lower Ranch Subdivision are below the standards and therefore may result in either higher insurance premiums or be uninsurable. In addition, all Building Permits require compliance with current Fire Code standards and with Blaine County Fire Protection Ordinance 2011-04, attached hereto.

As a greater concern to me, if there is a fire or need for emergency services my crews require the 20 foot width in order to have access to the equipment on the emergency vehicles and to have access past emergency vehicles. Road widths narrower than 20 feet create a safety hazard to my firefighters, most of whom are volunteers from the community, as well as homeowners and property owners. As we move into another dry summer season with high potential for wildland fire danger, it is imperative to the safety and welfare of the owners and visitors of the Board's Lower Ranch that improvements be undertaken to improve the access roadways in the entire area.

Please feel free to check the Ketchum Fire Department website at www.ketchumfire.org to see additional information on the current Fire Code and ordinances. You may also contact me with any questions or concerns you have.

Sincerely,

MIKE ELLE | KETCHUM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Fire and EMS

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CHAPTER 5 FIRE SERVICE FEATURES

SECTION 501 GENERAL

501.1 Scope.

Fire service features for buildings, structures and premises shall comply with this chapter.

501.2 Permits.

A permit shall be required as set forth in Sections 105.6 and 105.7.

501.3 Construction documents.

Construction documents for proposed fire apparatus access, location of *fire lanes*, security gates across fire apparatus access and *construction documents* and hydraulic calculations for fire hydrant systems shall be submitted to the fire department for review and approval prior to construction.

501.4 Timing of installation.

When fire apparatus access roads or a water supply for fire protection is required to be installed, such protection shall be installed and made serviceable prior to and during the time of construction except when *approved* alternative methods of protection are provided. Temporary street signs shall be installed at each street intersection when construction of new roadways allows passage by vehicles in accordance with Section 505.2.

SECTION 502 DEFINITIONS

502.1 Definitions.

The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROAD. A road that provides fire apparatus access from a fire station to a facility, building or portion thereof. This is a general term inclusive of all other terms such as *fire lane*, public street, private street, parking lot lane and access roadway.

FIRE COMMAND CENTER. The principal attended or unattended location where the status of the detection, alarm communications and control systems is displayed, and from which the system(s) can be manually controlled.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MASTER KEY. A limited issue key of special or controlled design to be carried by fire department officials in command which will open key boxes on specified properties.

FIRE LANE. A road or other passageway developed to allow the passage of fire apparatus. A fire lane is not necessarily intended for vehicular traffic other than fire apparatus.

KEY BOX. A secure device with a lock operable only by a fire department master key, and containing building entry keys and other keys that may be required for access in an emergency.

SECTION 503 FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS

503.1 Where required.

Fire apparatus access roads shall be provided and maintained in accordance with Sections 503.1.1 through 503.1.3.

503.1.1 Buildings and facilities.

Approved fire apparatus access roads shall be provided for every facility, building or portion of a building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction. The fire apparatus access road shall comply with the requirements of this section and shall extend to within 150 feet (45 720 mm) of all portions of the facility and all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of the building as measured by an *approved* route around the exterior of the building or facility.

Exception: The *fire code official* is authorized to increase the dimension of 150 feet (45 720 mm) where:

1. The building is equipped throughout with an *approved automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3.
2. Fire apparatus access roads cannot be installed because of location on property, topography, waterways, nonnegotiable grades or other similar conditions, and an *approved* alternative means of fire protection is provided.
3. There are not more than two Group R-3 or Group U occupancies.

503.1.2 Additional access.

The *fire code official* is authorized to require more than one fire apparatus access road based on the potential for impairment of a single road by vehicle congestion, condition of terrain, climatic conditions or other factors that could limit access.

503.1.3 High-piled storage.

Fire department vehicle access to buildings used for *high-piled combustible storage* shall comply with the applicable provisions of Chapter 23.

503.2 Specifications.

Fire apparatus access roads shall be installed and arranged in accordance with Sections 503.2.1 through 503.2.8.

503.2.1 Dimensions.

Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet (6096 mm), exclusive of shoulders, except for *approved* security gates in accordance with Section

503.6, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches (4115 mm).

503.2.2 Authority.

The *fire code official* shall have the authority to require an increase in the minimum access widths where they are inadequate for fire or rescue operations.

503.2.3 Surface.

Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus and shall be surfaced so as to provide all-weather driving capabilities.

503.2.4 Turning radius.

The required turning radius of a fire apparatus access road shall be determined by the *fire code official*.

503.2.5 Dead ends.

Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet (45 720 mm) in length shall be provided with an *approved* area for turning around fire apparatus.

503.2.6 Bridges and elevated surfaces.

Where a bridge or an elevated surface is part of a fire apparatus access road, the bridge shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with AASHTO HB-17. Bridges and elevated surfaces shall be designed for a live load sufficient to carry the imposed loads of fire apparatus. Vehicle load limits shall be posted at both entrances to bridges when required by the *fire code official*. Where elevated surfaces designed for emergency vehicle use are adjacent to surfaces which are not designed for such use, *approved* barriers, *approved* signs or both shall be installed and maintained when required by the *fire code official*.

503.2.7 Grade.

The grade of the fire apparatus access road shall be within the limits established by the *fire code official* based on the fire department's apparatus.

503.2.8 Angles of approach and departure.

The angles of approach and departure for fire apparatus access roads shall be within the limits established by the *fire code official* based on the fire department's apparatus.

503.3 Marking.

Where required by the *fire code official*, *approved* signs or other *approved* notices or markings that include the words NO PARKING—FIRE LANE shall be provided for fire apparatus access roads to identify such roads or prohibit the obstruction thereof. The means by which *fire lanes* are designated shall be maintained in a clean and legible condition at all times and be replaced or repaired when necessary to provide adequate visibility.

503.4 Obstruction of fire apparatus access roads.

Fire apparatus access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking of vehicles. The minimum widths and clearances established in Section 503.2.1 shall be maintained at all times.

APPENDIX D

FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS

The provisions contained in this appendix are not mandatory unless specifically referenced in the adopting ordinance.

SECTION D101 GENERAL

D101.1 Scope.

Fire apparatus access roads shall be in accordance with this appendix and all other applicable requirements of the *International Fire Code* .

SECTION D102 REQUIRED ACCESS

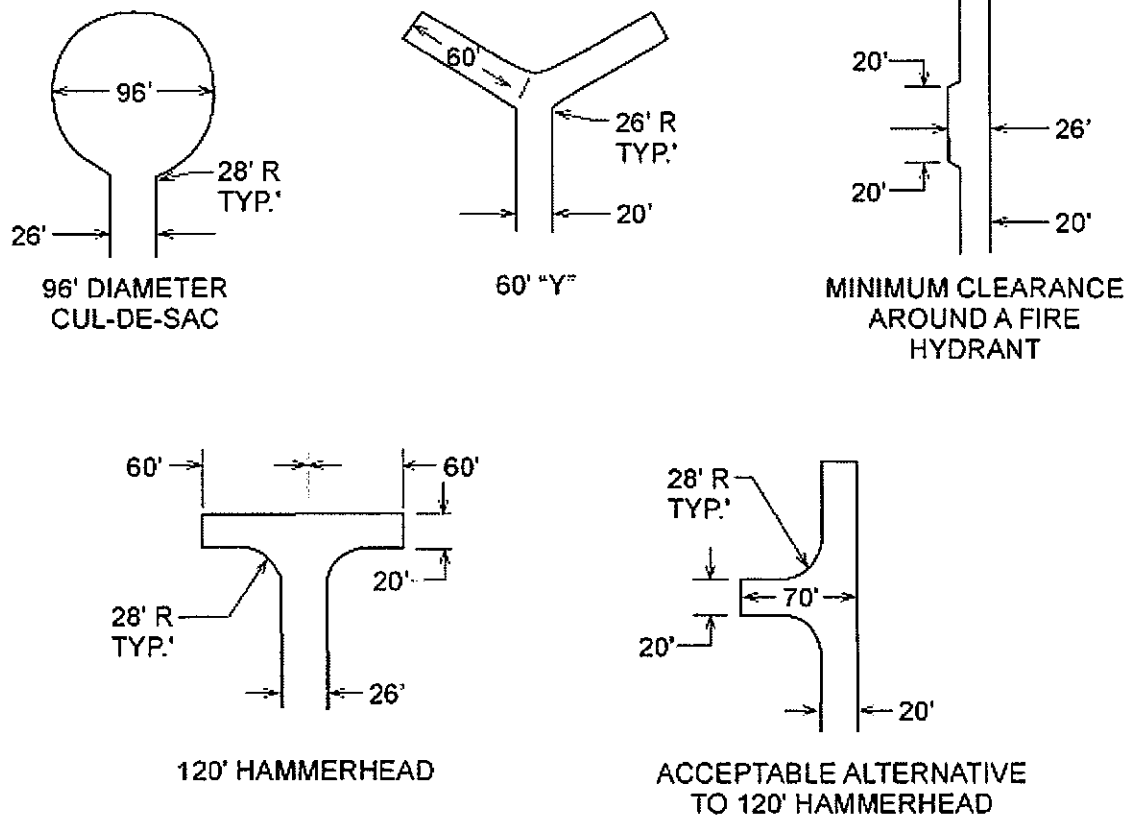
D102.1 Access and loading.

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 75,000 pounds (34 050 kg).

SECTION D103 MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS

D103.1 Access road width with a hydrant.

Where a fire hydrant is located on a fire apparatus access road, the minimum road width shall be 26 feet (7925 mm), exclusive of shoulders (see Figure D103.1).



For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

**FIGURE D103.1
DEAD-END FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROAD TURNAROUND**

D103.2 Grade. Fire apparatus access roads shall not exceed 10 percent in grade.

Exception: Grades steeper than 10 percent as *approved* by the fire chief.

D103.3 Turning radius.

The minimum turning radius shall be determined by the *fire code official*.

D103.4 Dead ends.

Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet (45 720 mm) shall be provided with width and turnaround provisions in accordance with Table D103.4.

**TABLE D103.4
REQUIREMENTS FOR DEAD-END FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS**

LENGTH (feet)	WIDTH (feet)	TURNAROUNDS REQUIRED
0-150	20	None required

151-500	20	120-foot Hammerhead, 60-foot "Y" or 96-foot-diameter cul-de-sac in accordance with Figure <u>D103.1</u>
501-750	26	120-foot Hammerhead, 60-foot "Y" or 96-foot-diameter cul-de-sac in accordance with Figure <u>D103.1</u>
Over 750	Special approval required	

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

D103.5 Fire apparatus access road gates.

Gates securing the fire apparatus access roads shall comply with all of the following criteria:

1. The minimum gate width shall be 20 feet (6096 mm).
2. Gates shall be of the swinging or sliding type.
3. Construction of gates shall be of materials that allow manual operation by one *person*.
4. Gate components shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times and replaced or repaired when defective.
5. Electric gates shall be equipped with a means of opening the gate by fire department personnel for emergency access. Emergency opening devices shall be *approved* by the *fire code official*.
6. Manual opening gates shall not be locked with a padlock or chain and padlock unless they are capable of being opened by means of forcible entry tools or when a key box containing the key(s) to the lock is installed at the gate location.
7. Locking device specifications shall be submitted for approval by the *fire code official*.
8. Electric gate operators, where provided, shall be *listed* in accordance with UL 325.
9. Gates intended for automatic operation shall be designed, constructed and installed to comply with the requirements of ASTM F 2200.

D103.6 Signs.

Where required by the *fire code official*, fire apparatus access roads shall be marked with permanent NO PARKING—FIRE LANE signs complying with Figure D103.6. Signs shall have a minimum dimension of 12 inches (305 mm) wide by 18 inches (457 mm) high and have red letters on a white reflective background. Signs shall be posted on one or both sides of the fire apparatus road as required by Section D103.6.1 or D103.6.2.