



# CODE INFORMATION SHEET

Based on the 2015 edition of the Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code, NFPA 101 and NFPA 1

## Fire Department Access Roads

A fire department access road (also known as a fire lane), is road or other means developed to allow access and operational setup for firefighting and rescue apparatus.

**Required Access.** Fire department access roads shall be provided for every facility, building, or portion of a building hereafter constructed or relocated.

When not more than two one- and two-family dwellings or private garages, carports, sheds, agricultural buildings, and detached buildings or structures 400 ft<sup>2</sup> (37 m<sup>2</sup>) or less are present

When fire department access roads cannot be installed due to location on property, topography, waterways, nonnegotiable grades, or other similar conditions, the AHJ shall be authorized to require additional fire protection features.

**Access to Building.** A fire department access road shall extend to within 50 ft (15 m) of at least one exterior door that can be opened from the outside and that provides access to the interior of the building.

### Additional Requirements.

Fire department access roads shall be provided such that any portion of the facility or any portion of an exterior wall of the first story of the building is located not more than 150 ft (46 m) from fire department access roads as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility.

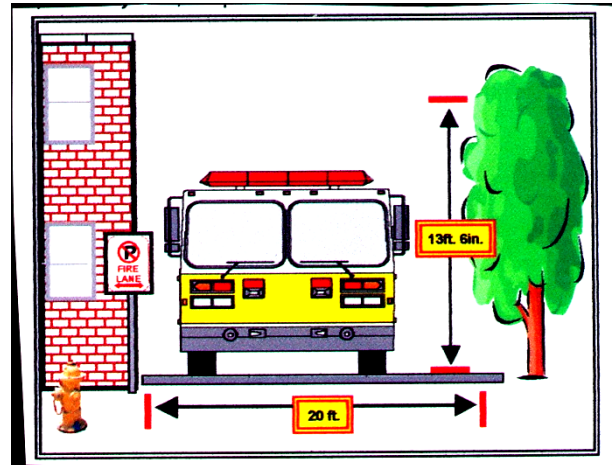
When buildings are protected throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system that is installed in accordance with NFPA 13, NFPA 13D, or NFPA 13R, the distance in 18.2.3.2.2 shall be permitted to be increased to 450 ft

**Multiple Access Roads.** More than one fire department access road shall be provided when it is determined by the AHJ that access by a single road could be impaired by vehicle congestion, condition of terrain, climatic conditions, or other factors that could limit access.

### Dimensions.

Fire department access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 ft (6.1 m)

Fire department access roads shall have an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 ft 6 in. (4.1 m).

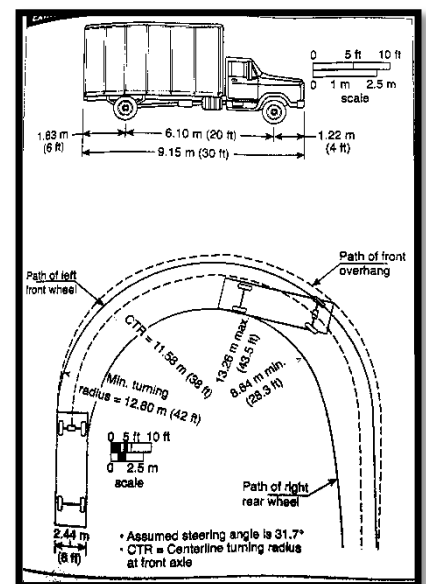


Vertical clearance shall be permitted to be reduced, provided such reduction does not impair access by fire apparatus, and approved signs are installed and maintained indicating the established vertical clearance when approved.

Vertical clearances or widths shall be increased when vertical clearances or widths are not adequate to accommodate fire apparatus.

**Surface.** Fire department access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus and shall be provided with a surface suitable for all-weather driving capabilities.

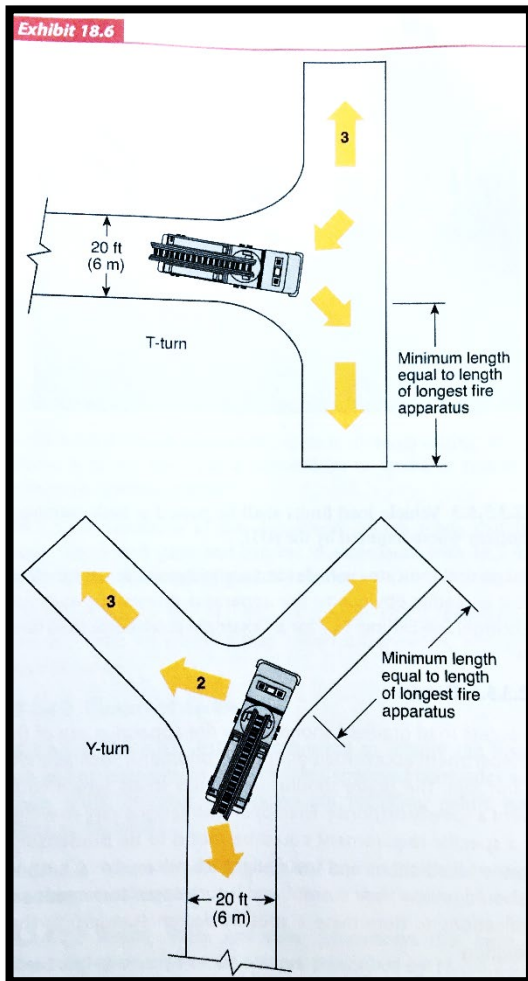
**Turning Radius.** The turning radius of a fire department access road shall be as approved by the AHJ.



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**Dead Ends.** Dead-end fire department access roads in excess of 150 ft (46 m) in length shall be provided with approved provisions for the turning around of fire apparatus



**Marking of Fire Apparatus Access Road.**

Where required by the AHJ, approved signs or other approved notices shall be provided and maintained for fire department access roads to identify such roads, or prohibit the obstruction thereof, or both.



**Obstruction and Control of Fire Department Access Road.**

The required width of a fire department access road shall not be obstructed in any manner, including by the parking of vehicles.

Minimum required widths and clearances established shall always be maintained .

Facilities and structures shall be maintained in a manner that does not impair or impede accessibility for fire department operations.

Entrances to fire department access roads that have been closed with gates and barriers shall not be obstructed by parked vehicles.

**Bridges.**

When a bridge is required to be used as part of a fire department access road, it shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with nationally recognized standards.

The bridge 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 where required by the AHJ.

**Grade.**

The gradient for a fire department access road shall not exceed the design limitations of the fire apparatus of the fire department and shall be subject to approval by the AHJ.

The angle of approach and departure for any means of fire department access road shall not exceed 1 ft drop in 20 ft (0.3 m drop in 6 m) or the design limitations of the fire apparatus of the fire department, and shall be subject to approval by the AHJ.