

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.

Exceptions:

1. 1. The *fire code official* is authorized to increase the [dimension of 150 feet \(45 720 mm\) where any of the following conditions occur](#):
 1. 1.1. [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. 1.2. [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. 1.3. [There are not more than two Group R-3 or Group U occupancies.](#)
2. 2. [Where approved by the fire code official, fire apparatus access roads shall be permitted to be exempted or modified for solar photovoltaic power generation facilities.](#)

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 32.

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 or permit modifications to the required access widths where they are inadequate for fire or rescue operations or where necessary to meet the public safety objectives of the jurisdiction.](#)

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 where required by the *fire code official*. Where elevated surfaces designed for emergency vehicle use are adjacent to surfaces that are not designed for such use, *approved* barriers, *approved* signs or both shall be installed and maintained where 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 Sections 503.2.1 and 503.2.2](#) shall be maintained at all times.

503.4.1. Traffic calming devices.

Traffic calming devices shall be prohibited unless *approved* by the *fire code official*.

503.5 Required gates or barricades.

The *fire code official* is authorized to require the installation and maintenance of gates or other *approved* barricades across fire apparatus access roads, trails or other accessways, not including public streets, alleys or highways. Electric gate operators, where provided, shall be *listed* in accordance with UL 325. Gates intended for automatic operation shall be designed, constructed and installed to comply with the requirements of ASTM F 2200.

503.5.1 Secured gates and barricades.

Where required, gates and barricades shall be secured in an *approved* manner. Roads, trails and other accessways that have been closed and obstructed in the manner prescribed by Section 503.5 shall not be trespassed on or used unless authorized by the *owner* and the *fire code official*.

Exception: The restriction on use shall not apply to public officers acting within the scope of duty.

503.6 Security gates.

The installation of security gates across a fire apparatus access road shall be *approved* by the fire chief. Where security gates are installed, they shall have an *approved* means of emergency operation. The security gates and the emergency operation shall be maintained operational at all times. Electric gate operators, where provided, shall be *listed* in accordance with UL 325. Gates intended for automatic operation shall be designed, constructed and installed to comply with the requirements of ASTM F 2200.

SECTION 507 FIRE PROTECTION WATER SUPPLIES

507.1 Required water supply.

An *approved* water supply capable of supplying the required fire flow for fire protection shall be provided to premises upon which facilities, buildings or portions of buildings are hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction.

507.2 Type of water supply.

A water supply shall consist of reservoirs, pressure tanks, elevated tanks, water mains or other fixed systems capable of providing the required fire flow.

507.2.1 Private fire service mains.

Private fire service mains and appurtenances shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 24.

507.2.2 Water tanks.

Water tanks for private fire protection shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 22.

507.3 Fire flow.

Fire flow requirements for buildings or portions of buildings and facilities shall be determined by an *approved* method.

507.4 Water supply test.

The *fire code official* shall be notified prior to the water supply test. Water supply tests shall be witnessed by the *fire code official* or *approved* documentation of the test shall be provided to the *fire code official* prior to final approval of the water supply system.

507.5 Fire hydrant systems.

Fire hydrant systems shall comply with Sections 507.5.1 through 507.5.6.

507.5.1 Where required.

Where a portion of the facility or building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction is more than 400 feet (122 m) from a hydrant on a fire apparatus access road, as measured by an *approved* route around the exterior of the facility or building, on-site fire hydrants and mains shall be provided where required by the *fire code official*.

Exceptions:

1. For Group R-3 and Group U occupancies, the distance requirement shall be 600 feet (183 m).
2. For buildings equipped throughout with an *approved automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, the distance requirement shall be 600 feet (183 m).

507.5.1.1 Hydrant for standpipe systems.

Buildings equipped with a standpipe system installed in accordance with Section 905 shall have a fire hydrant within 100 feet (30 480 mm) of the fire department connections.

Exception: The distance shall be permitted to exceed 100 feet (30 480 mm) where *approved* by the *fire code official*.

507.5.2 Inspection, testing and maintenance.

Fire hydrant systems shall be subject to periodic tests as required by the *fire code official*. Fire hydrant systems shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times and shall be repaired where defective. Additions, repairs, *alterations* and servicing shall comply with *approved standards*. [Records of tests and required maintenance shall be maintained.](#)

507.5.3 Private fire service mains and water tanks.

Private fire service mains and water tanks shall be periodically inspected, tested and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25 at the following intervals:

1. 1.Private fire hydrants of all types: Inspection annually and after each operation; flow test and maintenance annually.
2. 2.Fire service main piping: Inspection of exposed, annually; flow test every 5 years.
3. 3.Fire service main piping strainers: Inspection and maintenance after each use.

Records of inspections, testing and maintenance shall be maintained.

507.5.4 Obstruction.

Unobstructed access to fire hydrants shall be maintained at all times. The fire department shall not be deterred or hindered from gaining immediate access to fire protection equipment or fire hydrants.

507.5.5 Clear space around hydrants.

A 3-foot (914 mm) clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants, except as otherwise required or *approved*.

507.5.6 Physical protection.

Where fire hydrants are subject to impact by a motor vehicle, guard posts or other *approved* means shall comply with Section 312.

**APPENDIXC
FIRE HYDRANT LOCATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION**

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

**SECTIONC101
GENERAL**

C101.1 Scope.

In addition to the requirements of Section 507.5.1 of the International Fire Code, fire hydrants shall be provided in accordance with this appendix for the protection of buildings, or portions of buildings, hereafter constructed or moved into the jurisdiction.

**SECTIONC102
NUMBER OF FIRE HYDRANTS**

C102.1 Minimum number of fire hydrants for a building.

The number of fire hydrants available to a building shall be *not less than the minimum specified in Table C102.1.*

**TABLE C102.1
REQUIRED NUMBER AND SPACING OF FIRE HYDRANTS**

FIRE-FLOW REQUIREMENT(gpm)	MINIMUM NUMBEROF HYDRANTS	AVERAGE SPACINGBETWEEN HYDRANTS ^{a, b, c, f, g} (feet)	MAXIMUM DISTANCE FROM STREET OR ROAD TO FIRE HYDRANT
1,750 or less	1	500	250
2,000-2,250	2	450	225

2,500	3	450	225
3,000	3	400	225
3,500-4,000	4	350	210
4,500-5,000	5	300	180
5,500	6	300	180
6,000	6	250	150
6,500-7,000	7	250	150
7,500 or more	8 or more ^e	200	120

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 gallon per minute = 3.785 L/m.

1. a.Reduce by 100 feet for dead-end streets or roads.
2. b.Where streets are provided with median dividers that cannot be crossed by fire fighters pulling hose lines, or where arterial streets are provided with four or more traffic lanes and have a traffic count of more than 30,000 vehicles per day, hydrant spacing shall average 500 feet on each side of the street and be arranged on an alternating basis.
3. c.Where new water mains are extended along streets where hydrants are not needed for protection of structures or similar fire problems, fire hydrants shall be provided at spacing not to exceed 1,000 feet to provide for transportation hazards.
4. d.Reduce by 50 feet for dead-end streets or roads.
5. e.One hydrant for each 1,000 gallons per minute or fraction thereof.
6. f.A 50-percent spacing increase shall be permitted where the building is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 of the *International Fire Code*.
7. g.A 25-percent spacing increase shall be permitted where the building is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3 of the *International Fire Code* or Section P2904 of the *International Residential Code*.

SECTION C103 FIRE HYDRANT SPACING

C103.1 Hydrant spacing.

Fire apparatus access roads and public streets providing required access to buildings in accordance with Section 503 of the *International Fire Code* shall be provided with one or more fire hydrants, as determined by Section C102.1. Where more than one fire hydrant is required, the distance between required fire hydrants shall be in accordance with Sections C103.2 and C103.3.

C103.2 Average spacing.

The average spacing between fire hydrants shall be in accordance with Table C102.1.

Exception: The average spacing shall be permitted to be increased by 10 percent where existing fire hydrants provide all or a portion of the required number of fire hydrants.

C103.3 Maximum spacing.

The maximum spacing between fire hydrants shall be in accordance with Table C102.1.

SECTIONC104
CONSIDERATION OF EXISTING FIRE HYDRANTS

C104.1 Existing fire hydrants.

Existing fire hydrants on public streets are allowed to be considered as available to meet the requirements of Sections C102 and C103. Existing fire hydrants on adjacent properties are allowed to be considered as available to meet the requirements of Sections C102 and C103 provided that a fire apparatus access road extends between properties and that an easement is established to prevent obstruction of such roads.

SECTIONC105
REFERENCED STANDARDS

ICC IFC—15

International Fire Code

C101.1C103.1Table C102.1

ICC IRC—15

International Residential Code

Table C102.1

APPENDIXD
FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS

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

SECTIOND101
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*.

SECTIOND102
REQUIRED ACCESS

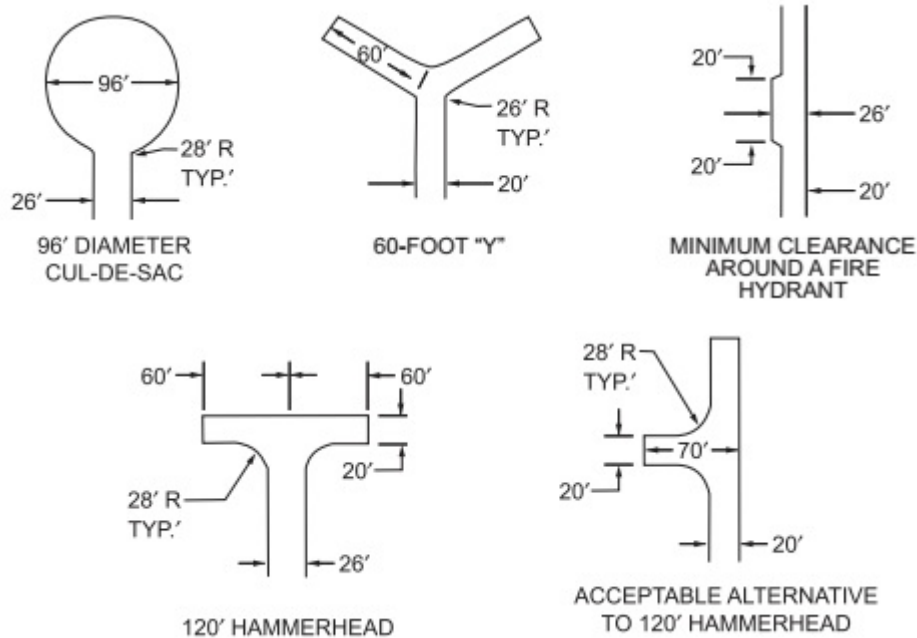
D102.1 Access and loading.

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).

SECTIOND103
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 F
501-750	26	120-foot Hammerhead, 60-foot "Y" or 96-foot diameter cul-de-sac in accordance with F

Over 750	Special approval required
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For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

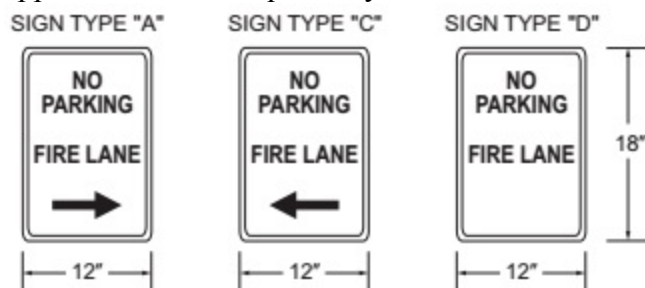
D103.5 Fire apparatus access road gates.

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

1. 1. Where a single gate is provided, the gate width shall be not less than 20 feet (6096 mm). Where a fire apparatus road consists of a divided roadway, the gate width shall be not less than 12 feet (3658 mm).
2. 2. Gates shall be of the swinging or sliding type.
3. 3. Construction of gates shall be of materials that allow manual operation by one person.
4. 4. Gate components shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times and replaced or repaired when defective.
5. 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. 6. *Methods of locking shall be submitted for approval by the fire code official.*
7. 7. Electric gate operators, where provided, shall be *listed* in accordance with UL 325.
8. 8. 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.



**FIGURE D103.6
FIRE LANE SIGNS**

D103.6.1 Roads 20 to 26 feet in width.

Fire lane signs as specified in Section D103.6 shall be posted on both sides of fire apparatus access roads that are 20 to 26 feet wide (6096 to 7925 mm).

D103.6.2 Roads more than 26 feet in width.

Fire lane signs as specified in Section D103.6 shall be posted on one side of fire apparatus access roads more than 26 feet wide (7925 mm) and less than 32 feet wide (9754 mm).

SECTION D104

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS

D104.1 Buildings exceeding three stories or 30 feet in height.

Buildings or facilities exceeding 30 feet (9144 mm) or three stories in height shall have at least two means of fire apparatus access for each structure.

D104.2 Buildings exceeding 62,000 square feet in area.

Buildings or facilities having a gross *building area* of more than 62,000 square feet (5760 m²) shall be provided with two separate and *approved* fire apparatus access roads.

Exception: Projects having a gross *building area* of up to 124,000 square feet (11 520 m²) that have a single *approved* fire apparatus access road when all buildings are equipped throughout with *approved automatic sprinkler systems*.

D104.3 Remoteness.

Where two fire apparatus access roads are required, they shall be placed a distance apart equal to not less than one half of the length of the maximum overall diagonal dimension of the lot or area to be served, measured in a straight line between accesses.

SECTION D105

AERIAL FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS

D105.1 Where required.

Where the vertical distance between the grade plane and the highest roof surface exceeds 30 feet (9144 mm), approved aerial fire apparatus access roads shall be provided. For purposes of this section, the highest roof surface shall be determined by measurement to the eave of a pitched roof, the intersection of the roof to the exterior wall, or the top of parapet walls, whichever is greater.

D105.2 Width.

Aerial fire apparatus access roads shall have a minimum unobstructed width of 26 feet (7925 mm), exclusive of shoulders, in the immediate vicinity of the building or portion thereof.

D105.3 Proximity to building.

At least one of the required access routes meeting this condition shall be located within a minimum of 15 feet (4572 mm) and a maximum of 30 feet (9144 mm) from the building, and shall be positioned parallel to one entire side of the building. The side of the building on which the aerial fire apparatus access road is positioned shall be approved by the *fire code official*.

D105.4 Obstructions.

Overhead utility and power lines shall not be located over the aerial fire apparatus access road or between the aerial fire apparatus road and the building. Other obstructions shall be permitted to be placed with the approval of the *fire code official*.