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DEPARTMENT OF FIRE-RESCUE

Fire Apparatus Access Road Fact Sheet

Purpose:

This fact sheet is intended to provide information that applies to all buildings and occupancies for maintaining adequate, unobstructed fire department access roadways for emergency vehicles and emergency personnel to buildings, structures, complexes, subdivisions or other developments as required by Chapter 50 of the California Fire Code and the City of Santa Fe Springs.

Where required:

Approved fire apparatus access roads shall be provided for every facility, building or portion of a building hereafter constructed or moved when any portion of an exterior wall of the first story of the building is located more than 150 feet from the fire apparatus access as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building. The dimension of 150 feet in relation to fire department access is commonly referred to as "hose pull distance". Hose pull is measured along a path that simulates the route a firefighter may take to access all portions of the exterior of a structure from the nearest fire access road (see figure 1). All obstructions such as fences, planters, vegetation, topography, and other structures must be considered when determining whether the building is accessible from a particular location on the fire access roadway.

Apparatus road dimensions:

Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 26 feet, exclusive of shoulders, except for approved security gates and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches.

Dead ends:

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

Turning radius:

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

Traffic calming features:

Traffic calming features such as speed bumps shall be approved by the fire code official.

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. Signs or markings shall be maintained in a clean and legible condition at all times and shall be replaced or repaired when necessary to provide adequate visibility.

Figure 1.

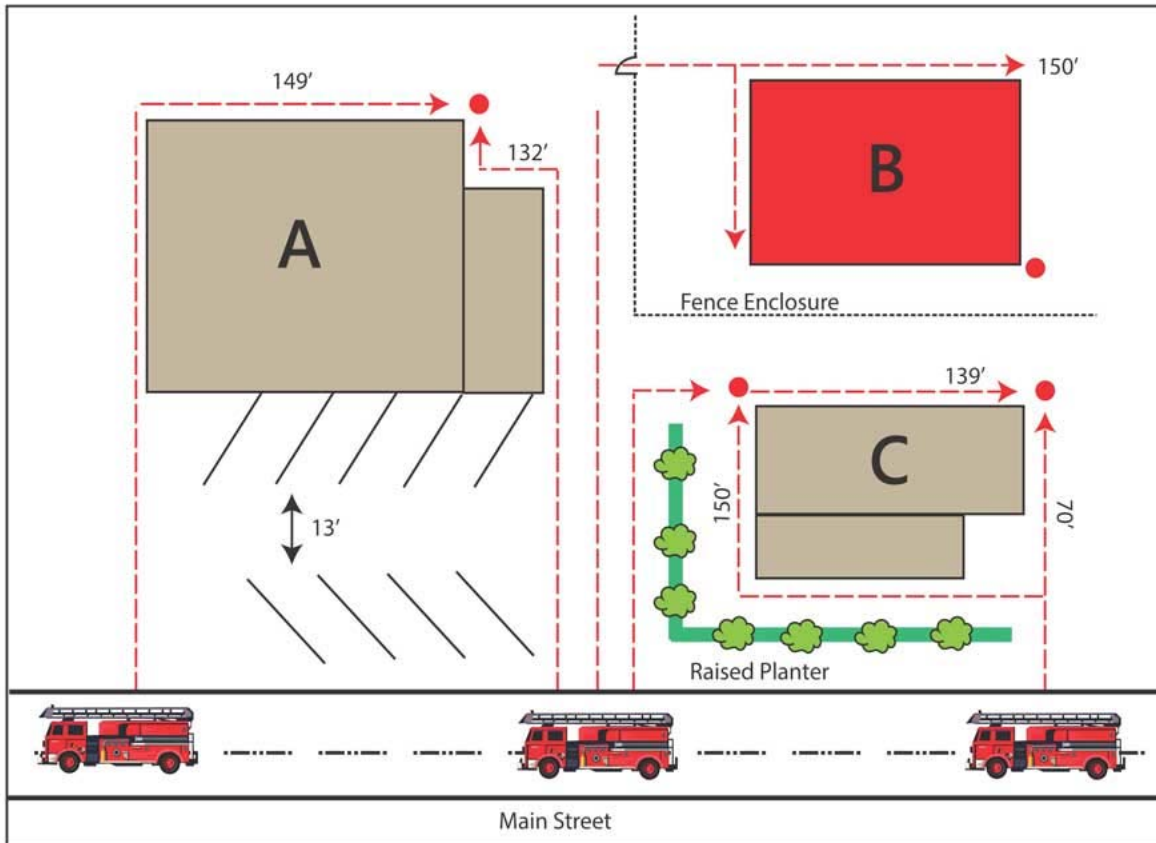


Figure 1 information guidance:

Assume that the parking lot is not accessible to fire apparatus due to the turning radius and fire lane widths less than the required minimums:

- A. Accessible. All portions of building "A" are within 150' of the public road as measured along the path of firefighter travel.
- B. Not accessible. Building "B" is not accessible. The presence of a fence enclosure forces firefighters to backtrack once they pass through the gate, increasing their travel distance beyond 150'. An on-site fire apparatus roadway or a change in the location of the gate would be necessary to provide access to building "B".
- C. Accessible. Building "C" is also accessible despite the obstruction posted by the raised planter.