

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
PUBLIC FACILITIES MANUAL – APPENDIX 19
FIRE LANE / ACCESS ROAD REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with Section 503 of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC), the following policy is adopted by the City of Chesapeake, Fire Prevention Office, for the purpose of establishing fire lane / access roadways for fire apparatus in accordance with the Fire Code definition as follows.

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 (drive aisle) and access roadway.

1. All buildings shall be accessible to Fire Department apparatus by way of access roadways with all-weather driving surface of not less than **20 feet** of unobstructed width, capable of supporting the imposed loads of fire apparatus (75,000 pounds) and having a minimum of 13 feet, 6 inches of vertical clearance. Surfaces other than concrete or asphalt shall be approved by the Fire Marshal or his duly authorized representative.
2. The required width of access roadways shall not be obstructed in any manner, including parking of vehicles. Where no space is provided for parking along access roadways, they shall be kept clearly marked as follows: In addition, see “Fire Lane Signage and Pavement Marking Detail” as attached.
 - A. Yellow traffic paint upon the curbing which outlines the access roadway or,
 - B. Yellow traffic paint four inches wide along the edge of pavement, and where deemed necessary by the Fire Marshal, or his duly authorized representative, on both the edge of the pavement and at a point or points a minimum of **20 feet** apart. Fire lane width may be increased in accordance with the Fire Code and Public Facilities Manual and as deemed necessary by the Fire Code Official.
 - C. In addition to the boundary painting required above, the message **“NO PARKING FIRE LANE”** shall also be painted within the area delineated by the lines and/or curb with yellow, reflector traffic paint utilizing the most appropriate message type shown on the attachment. The messages shall be spaced a minimum of 75 feet and a maximum of 100 feet apart.
 - D. In addition to the pavement markings, signs notifying the ordinarily observant person of the regulations shall be posted at intervals not less than 75 feet, not more than 100 feet apart. When deemed necessary by the Fire Marshal or his representative, such signs shall be mounted on both sides of the post to give adequate and timely notice of the regulations to the ordinarily observant person. The signs shall contain the following message:

**NO PARKING
FIRE LANE
TOWING ENFORCED
PENALTY - \$250 FINE**

They shall be fabricated in accordance with the specification contained in the Virginia Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, Parking Sign Section.

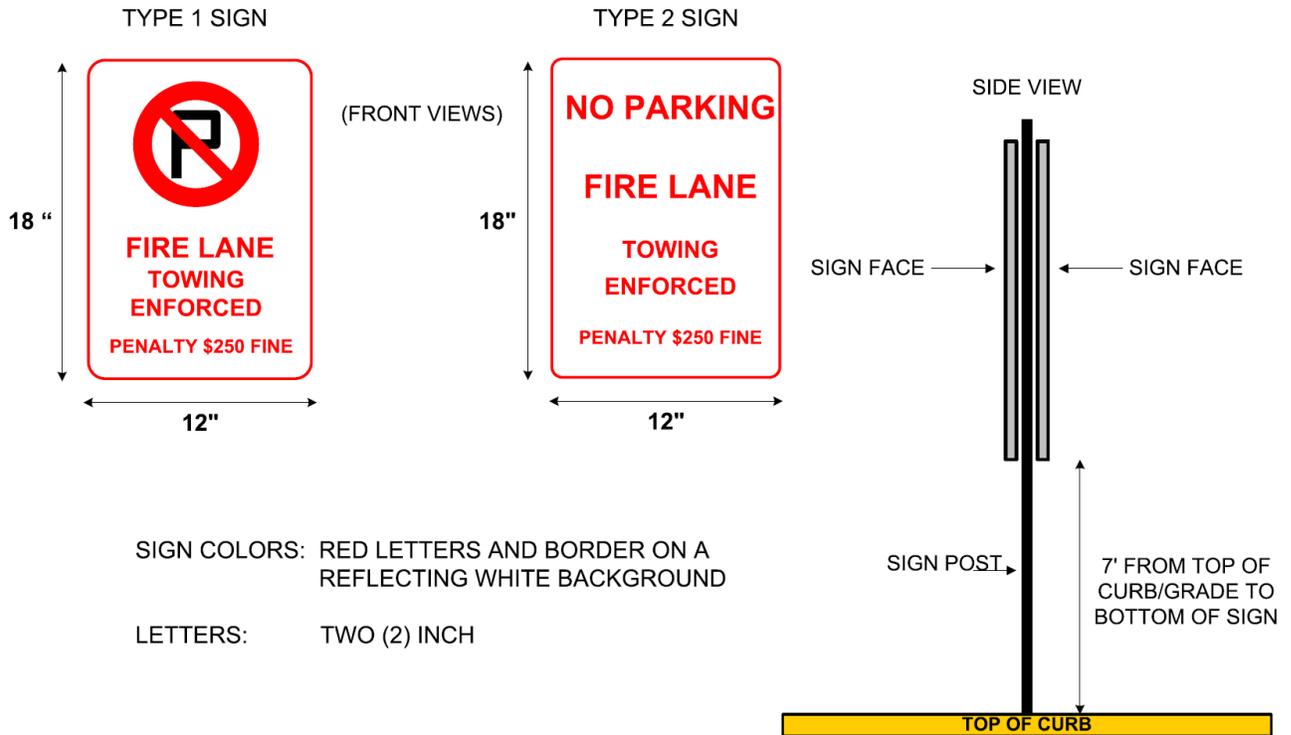
- E. Fire Department access areas for appliances, such as hydrants, standpipe inlets, sprinkler valves, etc., shall require marking per Items A, B, C & D.
- 3. All required signs and pavement markings shall be maintained in a legible condition acceptable as approved by the Fire Marshal's Office.
- 4. The access roadway shall be extended to within 150 feet of all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of any building.
- 5. Required access roadways shall be kept a minimum of 26 feet in width in the immediate vicinity of any building over 30 feet in height above natural grade. Required access roadway shall be located within a minimum of 15 feet and maximum of 30 feet from the building, and at a minimum shall be positioned parallel to one entire side of the building. Additional fire lanes may be required as deemed necessary by the Fire Code Official to ensure adequate emergency access.
- 6. Adjacent to fire hydrants, access roadways shall be a minimum of 26 feet in width, and 20 feet in either direction from the fire hydrant.
- 7. Required access roadways shall be required along the two long dimensions of a building exceeding 100 feet in width and 600 feet in length.
- 8. The minimum turning roadway radius shall conform to Appendix D of the SFPC.
- 9. **ENFORCEMENT:**
 - A. Whenever a fire lane is blocked by a parked vehicle or other obstruction, a Fire Inspector, Deputy Fire Marshal, Police Officer or other authorized Fire Department Personnel will be summoned to the scene for the purpose of ticketing same with a parking violation.

- B. What is deemed an obstruction:

Vehicles may not be parked **or** left unattended in the Fire Lane. **ACTIVE** loading and unloading is permitted in the Fire Lane as long as the vehicle is **attended** at **ALL** times and can be **immediately moved**. Waiting in vehicle is **not** considered active loading and unloading and is **not permitted**.

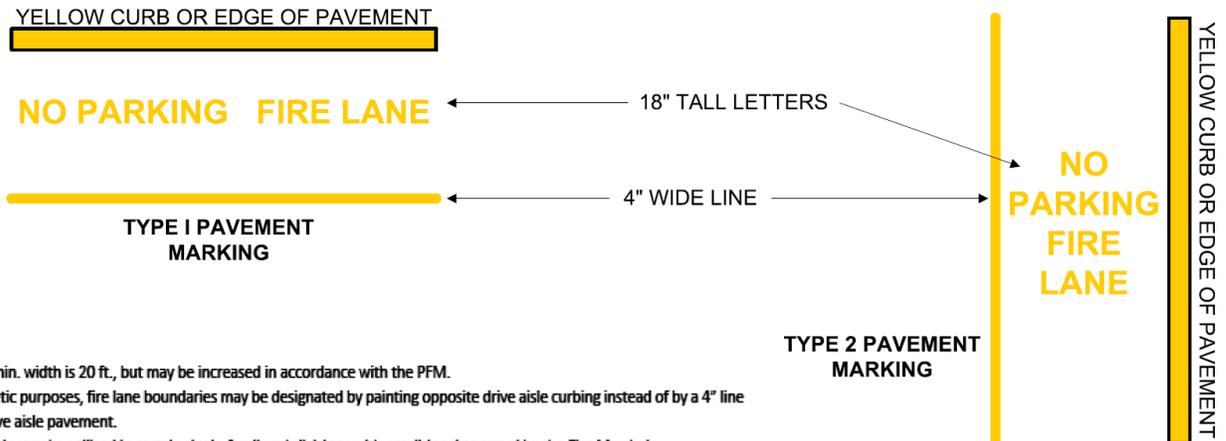
City of Chesapeake Fire Department FIRE LANE SIGNAGE AND PAVEMENT MARKING DETAIL

I. FIRE LANE SIGNAGE: REQUIRED POSTING AT ALL FIRE LANES AND AT 75-100 FT. SPACING



II. PAVEMENT MARKINGS: REQUIRED FOR ALL FIRE LANES AT 75-100 FT. SPACING

COLOR: YELLOW REFLECTIVE
TRAFFIC PAINT IN ACCORDANCE WITH
VDOT STANDARDS



Notes:

1. Fire lane min. width is 20 ft., but may be increased in accordance with the PFM.
2. For aesthetic purposes, fire lane boundaries may be designated by painting opposite drive aisle curbing instead of by a 4" line on the drive aisle pavement.
3. Signage only may be utilized in certain single-family subdivisions with conditional approval by the Fire Marshal.