

City of Vista Fire Department
Development Services Section
200 Civic Center Drive, Vista, CA 92084

Guideline:

Fire Lane Designation and Marking



Guideline G-09

Date: April 2010

PURPOSE

The intent of this guideline is to provide the minimum standards and required signage for the marking of fire lanes on private streets or drives in the City of Vista. The Fire Department is authorized to direct installation of approved signs or other approved notices for the identification of fire lanes. The purpose is to prevent obstruction of required emergency vehicle access.

This guideline does not apply to or limit the ability of property owners to post NO PARKING areas in addition to the required fire lanes.

SCOPE

As directed by the Fire Department access roadways and/or fire lanes shall be identified on the approved site plan for new developments or on the approved building plans for commercial and residential projects. The Fire Chief or Fire Marshal may determine the need for additional requirements, or may approve alternate methods of compliance with these standards.

DEFINITIONS:

Fire Apparatus Access Roadway: 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, driveway, parking lot lane and access roadway.

Fire Lane: A vehicular access roadway or driveway 24 feet or less in width designated officially by the Fire Department as a required means of fire department apparatus access.

STANDARDS:

DESIGNATED FIRE LANES (Designated by the City):

Areas on private property may be designated as fire Lanes for the following reasons:

1. Chronic parking of vehicles reduces fire access roads to less than 24 ft. in width.
2. Vehicle parking blocks a means of exiting.
3. Chronic vehicle parking blocks access to a fire hydrant.
4. To provide for fire apparatus access to buildings.

A property owner or his representative may request that certain areas meeting one of more of the above criteria be designated as Fire Lanes by following this procedure:

1. Draw a plot plan of the property showing parking areas, fire hydrants means of exiting, widths of alleys, driveways and access roads. Indicate areas in question.
2. Send a formal letter and two copies of the plot plan to the Fire Marshal requesting that the areas shown on the plot plan be designated as Fire Lanes.
3. Call the Fire Prevention Division (760)-639-6140 to set a date and time for an Inspector and a property representative to tour the property.
4. Upon Fire Department approval, property owner/representative will be advised that sign work or painting may begin.
5. When work is completed the representative will call the Fire Prevention Division to request a final inspection.

Where a request to designate a fire lane is from a group of owners along a private street the request must include endorsements from all property owners adjacent to the fire lane unless the Fire Department determines that one or more of the four reasons for designating a fire lane exists. Occasional partial obstruction of the access roadway would not be sufficient reason for the Fire Department to designate a fire lane.

REQUIRED FIRE LANES:

A homeowners association or property owner designated as the primary enforcement representative is responsible to provide, install, and maintain the required signs and red curbs on approved access roads and fire lanes. **Note:** It is not the Fire Department's responsibility to intervene between homeowners and associations or property management on matters of civil dispute regarding HOA rules or CCR's.

SIGNS, CURB AND FIRE LANE PAINTING:

When signs are used to designate a fire lane, said signs must be posted immediately adjacent to and visible from the designated lane. Signs are required within 3 feet of the end of each lane and spaced a maximum of 100 feet along the entire lane. Additional signs may be required since a sign must be visible from any point along the roadway. A fire lane entrance sign may be required by the Fire Department at entrances to commercial or residential areas that have fire lanes.

California Vehicle Code Section 22500.1 states that the designation shall be indicated (1) by a sign posted immediately adjacent to, and visible from, the designated place clearly stating in letters not less than one inch in height that the place is a fire lane, (2) by outlining or painting the place in red and, in contrasting color, marking the place with words, "FIRE LANE", which are clearly visible from a vehicle, or (3) by a red curb or red paint on the edge of the roadway upon which is clearly marked the words "FIRE LANE".

Curbs along access roads and fire lanes shall be painted OSHA Safety Red. The words “FIRE LANE NO PARKING” shall be painted on top of curb in white lettering 3 inches high and shall be spaced 50 feet on center or portion thereof.

Where large areas with no curbs and poor visibility exist, the following method shall be used:

The edge of the required fire lane shall be painted with a 6 inch wide red stripe and the words “FIRE LANE NO PARKING” shall be painted in 4 inch tall white letters every 50 feet. Lettering shall face the inside of the fire lane area. Appropriate signage shall be placed at the beginning of the fire lane.

SIGN MATERIAL: The base metal shall be new sheet aluminum, .080 gauge thickness, or alloys 6061-T6, or 5052-H38 conforming to the requirements of ASTM Designation: B209. The *white* reflective background sheeting shall be FHWA FP-85, Type IIA, Super Engineering Grade, with red lettering not less than one inch in height, ink shall be solvent resistant.

Approved manufacturer for white reflective background sheeting and red ink: Nippon Carbide Industries, Inc., 3M Company, or other approved equivalent.

SIGN MOUNTING: Height to bottom of sign in sidewalks or pedestrian areas shall be 7’-0” and 5’-0” in all other areas.

Depth of sign shall be 18 inches from standard curb face and 24 inches with rolled curb to center of post.

NOTE: Signs may be mounted on existing posts or buildings if centerline of sign is no more than 24 inches from the edge of the roadway.

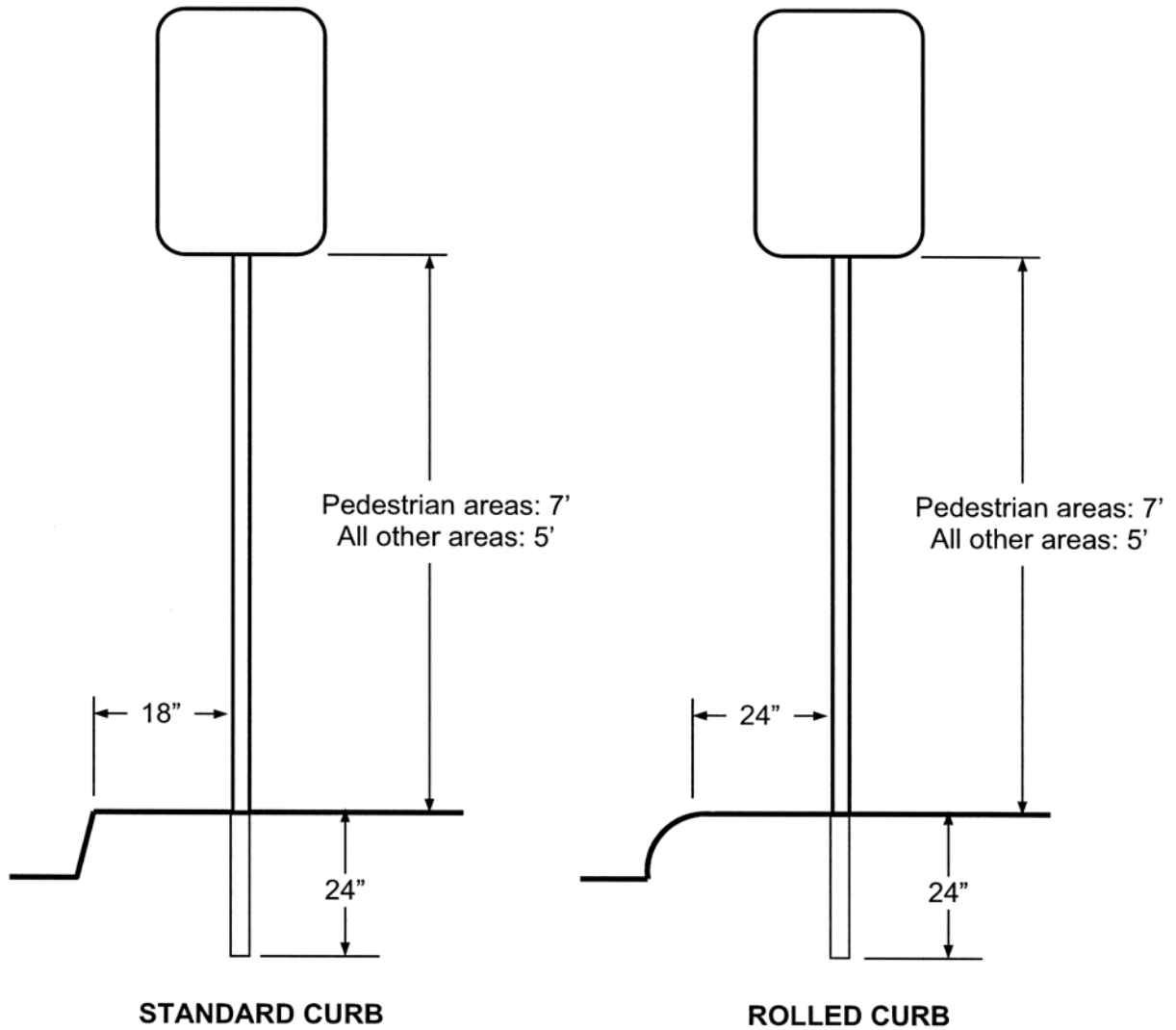
ENFORCEMENT:

The enforcement of fire lanes is the responsibility of the local law enforcement agency as specified under California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 22500.1. Within the City of Vista the San Diego County Sheriff’s Office is the law enforcement agency.



If needed for clarification BEGIN and END signs may be required below the no parking fire lane sign.

Mounting Specifications for Fire Lane Entrance and No Parking Signs



Signs shall be mounted facing the direction of vehicular travel.

Signs may be mounted on existing posts or buildings where the centerline of the sign is no more than 24" from the edge of the roadway.

Depth of bury shall be a minimum of 24".