



# New Braunfels Fire Department

“Be Nice, Be Professional”

## FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS ROADS (FIRE LANES)

This information has been compiled to assist in the proper installation of fire department access roads and fire lanes. The following are the minimum requirements and any changes or variations from these requirements must be approved by the Fire Marshal of the City of New Braunfels prior to construction and/or marking of any Fire Apparatus Access Road/Fire Lane.

These requirements are taken from the 2018 International Fire Code Chapter 5, Section 503.

Approved fire apparatus access roads shall be provided for every facility, building, or portion of a building. The fire apparatus access road shall extend to within 150 feet 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.

### **Dimensions:**

Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches.

### **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.

### **Turning Radius:**

IFC 503.2.4

AHJ requires the following minimal turning radius

- Inside turning radius of at least 25 feet
- Curb to curb turning radius of at least 41 feet
- Wall to wall turning radius of at least 48 feet

### **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 fire apparatus. (Contact Fire Marshal for acceptable turn around)

### **Grade:**

Fire apparatus access roads shall not exceed 10 percent in grade.

**Marking:**

Approved markings, signs, or other notices to identify such roads or prohibit the obstruction thereof shall be provided for fire apparatus access roads.

1. Striping – The top and face of road curbs shall be painted utilizing red traffic paint.
  - a. If no curbs are present, a six inch wide stripe painted of traffic red paint shall be painted on the driving surface to show the boundaries of the lane.
  - b. The words “NO PARKING FIRE LANE” shall appear in four inch white letters spaced at 25 foot intervals on the red border markings along both sides of the fire lanes. (see attached illustration #1).
2. When required, signage indicating “FIRE LANE NO PARKING” shall be spaced at a maximum of 75 feet apart, along the length of the fire lane (See example of approved signs).

No person may mark, post or otherwise identify a non-fire lane private vehicular passageway as a fire lane or in such a manner as tends to create confusion as to whether the passageway is a fire lane.

**Obstruction of Fire Apparatus Access Roads:**

Fire apparatus access roads/fire lanes shall not be obstructed by persons in any manner, including parking, stopping, or standing any non-emergency vehicle, whether attended or unattended, in a fire lane. The minimum widths and clearances established in any area designated as fire apparatus access road/fire lane shall be maintained at all times. The owner or person being in control of a property shall maintain, free of obstruction all fire apparatus access roads/fire lanes on his/her premises.

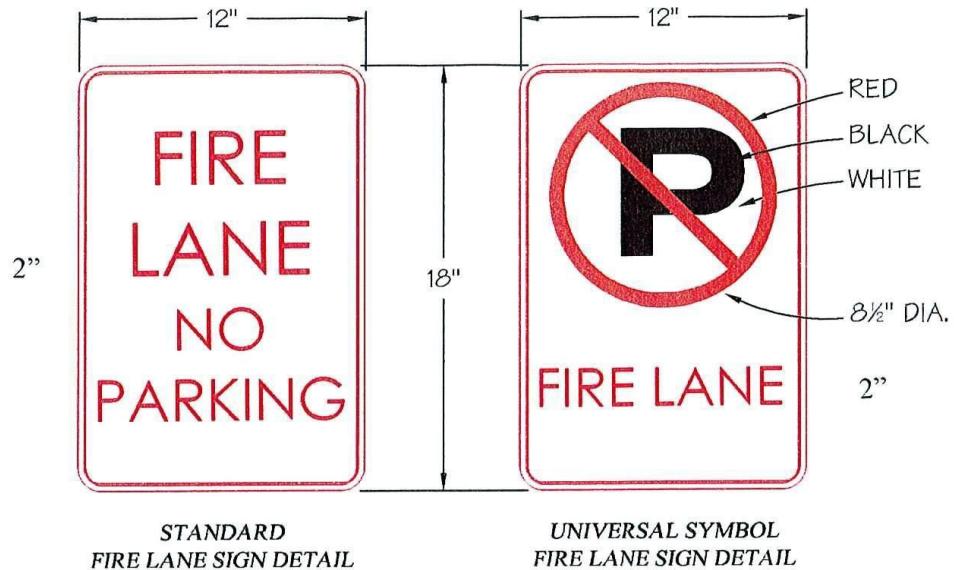
**Maintaining the Fire Lane:**

The Fire Code requires the owner or person in control of the property to maintain the fire apparatus access road/fire lane. Signs or notices and striping shall be maintained in a clean and legible condition at all times and be replaced or repaired when necessary to provide adequate visibility.

Nothing in these guidelines shall be construed to affect the validity or enforcement of previously installed and approved access road and fire lane markings.

For more information, call the Fire Marshal's Office at 830-221-4200.

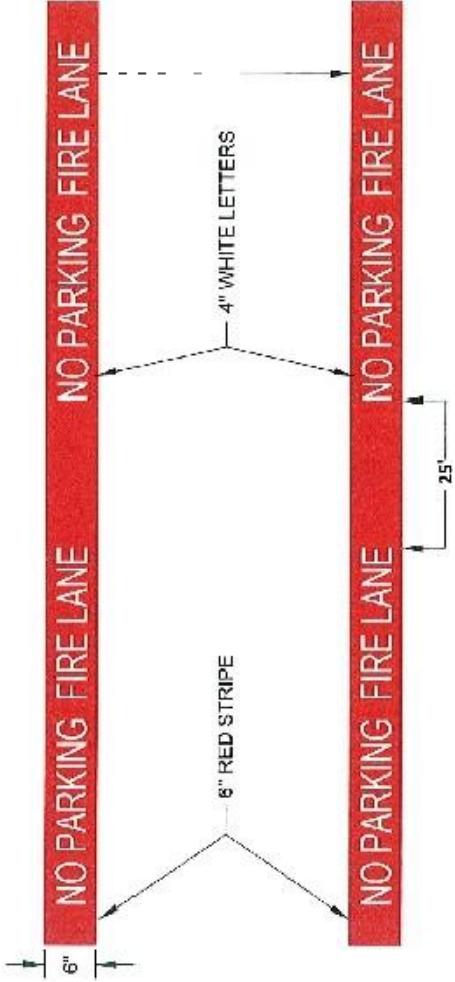
APPROVED NEW BRAUNFELS FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FIRE LANE SIGNS



1. THE SIGN PLATE SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF 12" X 18" WITH A THICKNESS OF .080 ALUMINUM CONSTRUCTION.
2. THE SIGN FACE SHALL HAVE A WHITE REFLECTIVE BACKGROUND WITH A RED LEGEND. USE THE STANDARD 3M SCOTCHLITE SIGN FACE NUMBER R7-32 OR EQUIVALENT, WITH RED SCREEN PRINTED LETTERING AS SHOWN ABOVE.

New Braunfels Fire Department  
Proper Striping Of Fire Lanes

Illustration #1



NEW BRAUNFELS FIRE  
FIRE LANE STRIPING  
CALL NUMBER: 444-5145, 444-5146, 444-5147  
SCALE: 1/8" = 25'  
NEW BRAUNFELS, TX 78130