

OCFRD Standard 6009 "Fire Lanes"



Orange County Fire Rescue Department
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AUTHORITY:

The Fire Marshal is authorized by Florida Statutes, the Florida Fire Prevention Code, and Orange County Code of Ordinances Chapter 18 to designate fire lanes for use by emergency apparatus.

It is not the intention of this Standard to contradict, or set aside, any provision of any other higher level of law or code. If any conflict is discovered, the more restrictive law or code shall prevail.

Compliance with this Standard does not demonstrate compliance, or lack of compliance, with any other law or code pertaining to other topics.

ADMINISTRATION AND SCOPE:

This edition of Standard # 6009 shall apply to both new and existing Fire Lanes in unincorporated Orange County. Existing fire lanes shall be evaluated during routine maintenance fire inspections to determine their need to comply with the current edition of this Standard.

EXPLANATION:

When fire or medical emergencies occur, ready access to the structures involved and to components of their fire suppression systems (such as Fire Department Connections and fire hydrants) are essential for effective fire department operations. Designation and uniform marking of "Fire Lanes" helps to ensure this objective is met in the most expeditious manner possible.

RESPONSIBILITY:

1. Required fire lanes shall be established by the Office of the Fire Marshal (O.F.M.) for all new construction projects during the plan review and field inspection phases.
2. Throughout construction the developer/contractor shall ensure that fire lanes are maintained in good condition and remain unobstructed.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the owner/tenant to maintain fire lanes free of all obstructions at all times, including parked vehicles, dumpsters, construction materials, excessive vegetation, and storage of any type.
4. Fire lanes shall be established for existing buildings by the Fire Marshal, or their designee, when it is determined that inadequate Fire Department access is provided.

DEFINITIONS:

1. Authority Having Jurisdiction (A.H.J.) –The individual responsible for approving equipment, materials, installations, and procedures relating to fire safety. The A.H.J. for unincorporated Orange County is herein referred to as the "Fire Marshal".
2. Concerned Party – Includes owners, developers, architects, engineers, planners, and the public.

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3. Fire Department Connection (F.D.C.) – A connection to the building's sprinkler system and/or standpipe system used to supply water under pressure from a fire engine.
4. Fire Lane – The road or other means developed to allow access and operational setup for firefighting and rescue apparatus. It is that area designated by the Fire Marshal, or their designee, as "No Parking-Fire Lane" area to allow for access and use by fire department and other emergency personnel.

FIRE LANE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Fire Lanes shall have an all-weather driving surface with not less than **20**-feet of unobstructed width.
 - a. Be able to withstand live loads of fire apparatus (a required minimum weight of **36**-tons).
 - b. And have a minimum of **13**-feet **6**-inches of vertical clearance.
2. An approved turnaround for fire apparatus shall be provided where an access road to a building is a dead end and is in excess of **150**-feet in length.
 - a. The turnaround shall have a paved turnaround with a minimum radius of thirty-four (34) feet. The radius of the right-of-way shall be a minimum of forty-four (44) feet for curb and gutter sections and fifty (50) feet for swale sections. T-turn and Y-turn turnaround arrangements in accordance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code are acceptable as approved by the AHJ.
 - b. The A.H.J. or their designee shall approve the grade, surface, and location of the fire lane.
 - c. See exceptions as noted in the Florida Fire Prevention Code.
3. Fire lanes for Fire Department access to buildings shall be provided at the start of a project and shall be maintained throughout construction.
 - a. Permanent markings are not required until the building is complete or occupied for use.
 - b. During construction, a Fire Lane with a stabilized road surface acceptable to the Fire Marshal, or designee, shall be provided and maintained to all areas of the project.
4. At least one elevation of each building shall be accessible to the Fire Department.
 - a. The Fire Marshal, or their designee, based upon such features as the location of exits, F.D.C.s, and parking areas, shall determine the specific location of this access in relation to the building.
 - b. These Fire lanes shall be provided with the inner edge of the roadway no closer than **10**-feet and no farther than **30**-feet from the building.
 - c. Such fire lanes shall have a surface designed to accommodate fire apparatus with a minimum weight of **36**-tons.
5. Buildings constructed with firefighting access doors and/or panels, or with panels and/or windows installed as part of an approved smoke removal system, shall have the required fire lane located so as to provide ready access to these specialized building features.
6. All buildings that are set back more than **150**-feet from a public road, or exceed **30** feet in height and are set back over **50**-feet from a public road, shall be provided with suitable Fire Lanes.
7. Unusual situations, such as those relating to access to fire hydrants, fire department connections, and buildings may warrant deviation from this standard.
 - a. Such situations will be evaluated and approved on an individual basis by the Fire Marshal, or designee.

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- b. The Fire Marshal, or their designee, may require the posting of additional signage to insure adequate turning radius for fire apparatus is maintained where needed.

FIRE LANE SIGN REQUIREMENTS:

1. Material: Anodized aluminum.
2. Gauge: **0.08**-inches.
3. Dimensions: **18**-inches high x **12**-inches wide.
4. Description: Freestanding signs shall have the wording "**NO PARKING FIRE LANE**" in red letters on a white background.
5. Sign Surface Background: To be covered with white reflective type material such as "scotch-lite".
6. Height: The sign shall be a maximum of **7**-feet in height from the roadway to the bottom of the sign.
7. Locations: Signs shall be within sight of the traffic flow and shall be a maximum of **60**-feet apart, beginning no more than **15**-feet from the ends of any fire lane. Additional signs shall be provided as determined by the Fire Marshal, or designee, and in accordance with this standard.
8. In addition to the required signage, Fire Lane marking in accordance with Option # **1** or # **2** below shall be provided. Final approval of the specific fire lane marking application shall be approved by the AHJ.

CURB MARKING (OPTION # 1):

1. Color: DOT Safety Yellow, White, or Red
2. Marking: The top and face of a curb, where provided, shall be completely painted for the entire length of the fire lane.
3. Location: As determined by the Fire Marshal, or their designee, and in accordance with this standard.

PAVEMENT STRIPING (OPTION # 2):

1. Color: DOT Safety Yellow, White, or Red
2. Striping: Striping shall extend diagonally out **3**-feet (36 inches) from the curb or from the edge of the pavement. Stripes should be 3-inches wide. Lettering shall be 24-inches high in white, yellow, or red colors and state "Fire Lane No Parking."
3. Distance between stripes: **2**-feet.
4. Location: As determined by the Fire Marshal, or their designee, and in accordance with this standard.

REQUIRED FIRE HYDRANT MARKING:

1. Fire lanes with appropriate signage, as noted above, shall be provided at all fire hydrant locations.
 - a. The length of the fire lane shall be a total of **30**-feet, **15**-feet on either side of the hydrant measured from the centerline of the hydrant.

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- b. The posted sign shall be posted behind the hydrant and have a minimum clearance of at least **4**-feet from the rear of the hydrant.
2. Fire hydrants located on parking "islands" shall have a fire lane established.
 - a. No parking space may be placed so that when used it would obstruct a fire hydrant.
 - b. If a hydrant is installed in the centerline of an island that is at least **15**-feet wide, and the hydrant is no more than **7-1/2** feet from the end of the island, cars may be parked on both sides.
 - c. If these provisions are not met the parking spaces on both sides of the island shall be designated as part of the required fire lane, and access to these areas shall be prevented with physical barriers, such as "parking stops" or bollards.
3. Supplemental curb marking or pavement striping is required for all fire hydrants to clearly mark the boundaries of the fire lane. This will help to alert the public of the need to stay out of the area and will assist in enforcement of the no parking zone.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION MARKINGS:

1. Fire lanes with appropriate signage shall be provided for all F.D.C.s.
 - a. The length of the fire lane shall be **10**-feet, extending **5**-feet on either side of the centerline.
 - b. A sign designed in accordance with Florida D.O.T. standards, as listed above, shall identify all F.D.C.s. It shall have the wording "**No Parking, Fire Department Connection**".
2. Additional signage shall be required whenever an F.D.C. is not readily visible to approaching fire apparatus.
 - a. Such signs shall have "F.D.C." in red letters at least **6**-inches high, and additional relevant information in red letters at least **six (6)**-inch high (i.e.-"**Behind Retaining Wall**"), or a red arrow to indicate direction of travel to the FDC.
3. Additional signage is also required when the building that an FDC supplies is not easily discerned.
 - a. Such signs shall have the physical address or the occupancy name called out in red letters at least **six (6)** inches high (i.e.-"11,252" or "**Bldg. A**").
4. Supplemental curb marking or pavement striping is required for every F.D.C. to clearly mark the boundaries of the fire lane. This will help to alert the public of the need to stay out of the area and will assist in enforcement of the no parking zone

APPEAL AND ADJUSTMENTS:

If a concerned party is not satisfied with a decision of the Fire Marshal, or their designee, an appeal may made be made to the Orange County Fire and Life Safety Code Board of Adjustments and Appeals, as provided for in State law.