TACOMA FIRE DEPARTMENT Information Bulletin



Fire Lane Safety

The fire code requires fire apparatus access roads be provided for new buildings and facilities. The roads must be installed so firefighters can maneuver large and heavy fire apparatus to a position where they can be operated effectively and safely.

Often these access roads may be used in conjunction with other site development features such as parking lots, delivery zones, staging areas, and even pedestrian walkways. As a result, important fire apparatus access may be compromised by parked vehicles, outdoor storage, retail displays, or other obstructions.

Some common ways to mark fire access roads include

- painted curbs with "No Parking Fire Lane" stencils;
- signs mounted on posts or pylons with similar language;
- signs attached to buildings with "No Parking" messages; and
- painted asphalt or concrete surfaces with "No Parking" warnings.

On private property such as shopping centers, apartment complexes and business parks it is



the property owners' responsibility to ensure fire lanes stay unobstructed to ensure responding fire units are able to access fire hydrants, other fire appliances and have access to the buildings.

> If you have additional questions regarding Fire Lanes, call the Tacoma Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau's Office at 253.591.5740.