

**MINNEAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU POLICY # 5-3
FIRE VEHICLE ACCESS ROADS**

Original issue 7-03-86

Last revision 2-23-05

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ISSUE:

Access roads (fire lanes) are needed where streets do not provide adequate access for fire department vehicles.

CODE REQUIREMENTS:

All portions of the exterior of new buildings, additions to buildings, new tanks, facilities, lumber and storage yards, and buildings with change of occupancy type are to be within 150 feet of a public street or approved fire vehicle access.

PROBLEM:

The fire code leaves some of the access road requirements to the discretion of the local fire department. This policy combines those code requirements with the department's requirements.

MFD ACCEPTABLE COMPLIANCE:

1. **Minimum Dimensions:** 20 feet unobstructed width and 13 feet 6 inches unobstructed vertical clearance.
2. **Surface:** The roads are to support the imposed loads of Minneapolis Fire Department apparatus and provide an all-weather driving surface.
Grade: 10% max. for concrete or asphalt surfaces.
Bridges: The design live load is to support the imposed loads of MFD apparatus. Load limits are to be posted at each end of bridges.
Apparatus weights: 80,000 total weight.
60,000 total rear axle weight.
3. **Turning Radius:**
 - Inside radius: 40 feet
 - Outside Radius: 70 feet
 - **Dead Ends:** 150 feet max. dead-end length. An approved turn around (see sheet #3) is to be provided every 150 feet for dead-end access roads.
4. **Obstructions:** Parking of vehicles or the placement of materials that obstruct all or a portion of a fire lane is prohibited at all times. Security gates are to be designed so as not to be obstructed by snow or ice and are to be readily operable by the fire department.

Signage (marking of fire lanes):

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- Signs are to be installed on both sides of fire lanes and are to be located at the beginning, at the termination and every 60 feet.
- The signs are to be installed at 7 feet above grade and be located 1 to 3 feet from the edge of the fire lane.
- The signs are to be mounted on posts of durable construction.
- Signs are to state “FIRE LANE, NO PARKING” in red letters on a white background. Each sign is to be a minimum of 12 inches wide by 18 inches high.

6. Exterior Access: Code required exterior access doors and openings are to be maintained readily accessible and approved access walkways are to lead from the fire lane to the openings.

7. The property owner is responsible for maintaining access roads, fire lanes, signs and exterior access.

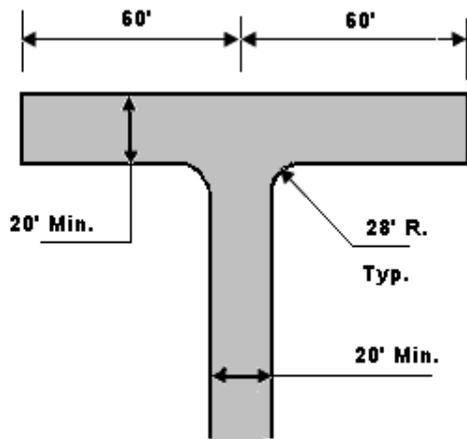
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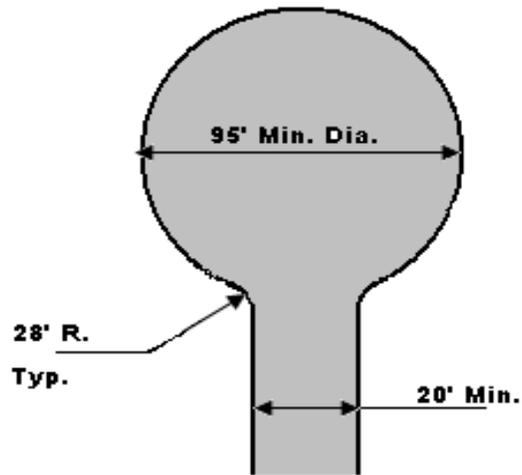
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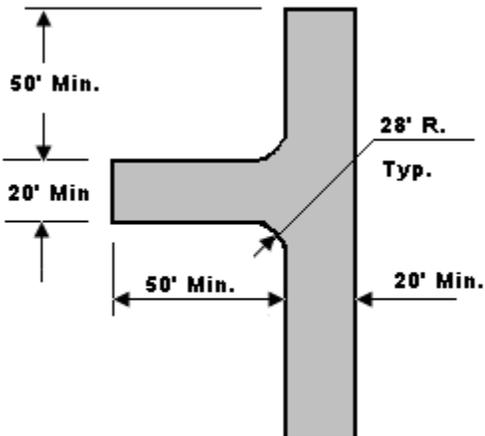
Acceptable vehicle turnarounds for dead-end firelanes that exceed 150' in length



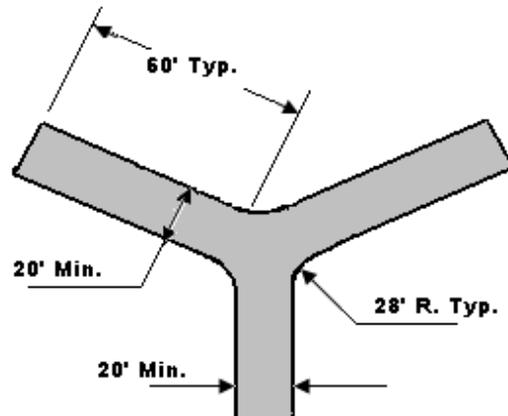
HAMMERHEAD



CUL DE SAC, 95' DIAMETER



ALTERNATIVE #1 TO HAMMERHEAD



ALTERNATIVE #2 TO HAMMERHEAD