



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

**FPB POLICY  
A-14-10**

**FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROAD  
FOR EXISTING PUBLIC STREETS  
CFC SECTION 503**

***I. PURPOSE***

This policy outlines the procedures for requiring fire access roadways for public streets built before February 9, 1975.

***II. SCOPE***

This policy applies to all existing public streets built prior to February 9, 1975. (For existing private streets, refer to FPB A-08-01 – Fire Access Roadways)

***III. AUTHORITY OF THE FIRE CODE OFFICIAL***

The fire code official may require that an access roadway be established if a distinct hazard to life or property exists.

***IV. FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADWAY REQUIREMENTS***

The width of the fire apparatus access roadway will be determined on a case-by-case basis with the ability to conduct fire fighting operations as the primary consideration.

***V. PROCEDURES***

Upon notification that a fire apparatus access roadway has questionable width, a site inspection shall be conducted. The inspector should:

- A. Prepare a site drawing and measure the width of the entire street. Deduct seven feet for parking on each side, and determine the width remaining.
- B. Notify the FCIP supervisor if street appears to be too narrow for safe fire fighting operations.
- C. The FCIP supervisor will advise the Assistant Fire Marshal.
- D. There will be an on-site inspection with respective Battalion Chief(s) and appropriate engine company.

**Community Risk Reduction Division**

Fire-Rescue Department • 600 B Street, Suite 1300 • San Diego, CA 92101-4903  
Tel (619) 533-4400 Fax 544-6806

- E. The Battalion Chiefs will make the final written decision (Attachment 1). The information is sent to the appropriate FCIP advisor (fire inspector), Fire Prevention Supervisor, and then the Assistant Fire Marshal.

## **VI. NOTIFICATION**

When it is determined that a public street needs to be designated as a fire access roadway, the Fire Company Inspection Program (FCIP) Supervisor will notify the affected property owners by mail (Attachment 2-Example).

- A. This letter advises the property owner to address questions or appeals to the Fire Prevention Bureau Assistant Fire Marshal.
- B. Once questions and appeals (including input from local engine company) have been addressed, or after 30 days if no appeals have been filed, the Fire Prevention Bureau FCIP Supervisor will contact the Traffic Engineering Division.
- C. A site meeting will be held between the Fire Prevention Bureau FCIP Supervisor, inspector and Traffic Engineering to:
  - 1. Determine which side of the street would be less affected by removal of parking (taking into consideration fire hydrants and curb cuts for driveway parking).
  - 2. Clarify which curbs are to be painted and where signs, if any, are to be placed.
- D. Traffic Engineering will issue the work order for the installation of signs and/or the painting of curbs to the Street Division.
- E. Copies of all correspondence between Fire-Rescue Department, Traffic Engineering, and the property owners shall be retained in Fire Prevention Bureau geographical files.

Promulgated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_