



DIVISION OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND
Department of Permits and Inspections

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FIRE CODE CHECK LIST FOR SITE & IMPROVEMENT PLANS

During the Development Review process, OLS verifies that Fire Department Access and water supplies meet the requirements of NFPA #1, *Fire Code*, 2015 Edition adopted by reference as part of the Frederick County Fire Prevention Code. The following is a list of common items that are missed or shown incorrectly on site and improvement plan submittals:

- Provide a note indicating that premises identification shall be compliant with Frederick County ordinance 05-01-362. This includes that designation of the address shall be incorporated in any monumental or site signs.
- Ensure that all Fire Department and Emergency Response access roads have an unobstructed width of 20 feet in accordance with NFPA #1, *The Fire Code* section 18.2.3.4.1. The roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus and shall be provided with a durable all-weather driving surface. For common driveways in minor subdivisions this office shall allow this width to be decreased to be 16 feet wide.
- Ensure that dead end access roads in excess of 150 feet are provided with approved provisions for fire apparatus to turn around. The turn-around shall be a Cul-de-sac with a minimum outside turn radius of 42 feet, or it may be a “Tee” or “Wye” with each leg being a minimum of 60 feet long in accordance with NFPA #1, *The Fire Code* section 18.2.3.4.4. All fire department access roads and turn arounds shall be a minimum of 20 feet wide, constructed of all weather materials and shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus. For common driveways in minor subdivisions this office shall allow this width to be decreased to be 16 feet wide.
- Indicate the location of the Fire Department Connection (FDC) on the street side of each building that is required to have sprinkler protection. Where the site is fed by public water, the FDC shall be within 100 ft of a fire hydrant. The FDC shall also be located so that hose lines can be readily attached to the inlets without interference from nearby objects including but not limited to parking, loading areas, fences and landscaping.
- For commercial buildings that are fed by public water Fire Hydrants shall be spaced at a maximum of 300 feet apart as measured along the main access road. Hydrants shall not be subject to being blocked by parking spaces. In addition all exterior walls of each building shall be within 300 feet of a hydrant. This distance is measured along the perimeter of the building, not how the crow flies.
- In residential developments with single family houses, Fire Hydrants shall be spaced at a maximum of 500 feet apart as measured along the road Hydrants shall also be located at each intersection. Hydrants shall be located at the property lines within 2 feet of the curb. Hydrants shall be located no more than 250 feet from the end of cul-de-sac or dead end road. In developments with town houses and other multi-family residential units Fire Hydrants shall be space at a maximum of 300 feet apart.

- Provide a note indicating that all perimeter drive aisles shall be marked as Fire Lanes with No Parking. Fire Lanes shall be painted traffic yellow and approved signs shall be posted a maximum of 75 feet apart.
- Where a development or building is supplied by public water, provide a note indicating that plowable fire hydrant markers shall be installed to identify the locations of hydrants. Markers shall be placed six inches from the edge of the painted centerline or from the approximate center of streets without a painted centerline on the side nearest the hydrant. Fire hydrants on street corners shall have markers installed in each roadway. The marker is a Stimsonite Marker; Model 101, or approved equivalent. The marker shall be blue in color.
- For commercial buildings, all exits that constitute a required means of egress shall have a walkway constructed of a durable surface that leads directly to the public way (parking lot or street). Any required exits in the rear of the building shall meet this requirement
- Provide a note indicating that each commercial building shall have an access box (KNOX Box) for Fire Department use installed at the main entrance in accordance with the provisions of NFPA #1, *The Fire Code* section 18.2.2. If there is fire department access in the rear of the building, additional Knox Box(es) shall be provided at approved locations. Any gates in fenced enclosures shall have a Knox pad lock installed.
- Where a commercial building is required to be sprinklered but is not supplied with public water, indicate the location of the water storage tank for the suppression system on the plans. If the fire pump is not to be installed in the main building, please indicate the location of the pump house.
- Fire Department access roads shall be provided such that any portion of the exterior wall of a commercial building is located not more than 150 feet from an access road as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building. If the building is sprinklered this distance may be increased to 450 feet from the access road.
- Fire Department access roads shall have an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13'-6". For commercial buildings this may affect the height and configuration of canopies.