

## MAINTAIN FIRE LANE FREE OF OBSTRUCTIONS

### CODE SECTIONS

*International Fire Code 2006 Edition*

**503.4 Obstruction of fire apparatus access roads.** Fire apparatus access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking of vehicles. The minimum widths and clearances established in Section 503.2.1 shall be maintained at all times.

**503.5 Required gates or barricades.** The fire code official is authorized to require the installation and maintenance of gates or other approved barricades across fire apparatus access roads, trails or other accessways, not including public streets, alleys or highways.

**503.5.1 Secured gates and barricades.** When required, gates and barricades shall be secured in an approved manner. Roads, trails and other access ways that have been closed and obstructed in the manner prescribed by Section 503.5 shall not be trespassed on or used unless authorized by the owner and the fire code official.

**Exception:** The restriction on use shall not apply to public officers acting within the scope of duty.

**503.6 Security gates.** The installation of security gates across a fire apparatus access road shall be approved by the fire chief. Where security gates are installed, they shall have an approved means of emergency operation. The security gates and the emergency operation shall be maintained operational at all times.

**503.2.1 Dimensions.** Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet (6096 mm), except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.6, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches (4,115 mm).

### EXPLANATION

Fire lanes shall be free of any obstructions for a clear width of 20 feet and a clear height of 13 feet 6 inches. Obstructions include but are not limited to cars, delivery trucks, gates, trash dumpsters, and vegetation such as trees.

### RATIONALE

In order to quickly arrive at your building and properly deploy our firefighting equipment, we require fire access lanes to remain free and clear of all obstructions for a width of 20 feet. This width will allow a piece of fire apparatus to pass around another piece of fire apparatus when it is parked. The vertical clearance is required so that our apparatus can pass under any overhead obstructions.