

MAINTAIN 3 FOOT CLEARANCE FOR ACCESS/USE OF FIRE APPLIANCES / EQUIPMENT

CODE SECTIONS

International Fire Code 2006 Edition

508.5.4 Obstruction. Posts, fences, vehicles, growth, trash, storage and other materials or objects shall not be placed or kept near fire hydrants, Fire District inlet connections or fire protection system control valves in a manner that would prevent such equipment or fire hydrants from being immediately discernible. The Fire District shall not be deterred or hindered from gaining immediate access to fire protection equipment or fire hydrants.

508.5.5 Clear space around hydrants. A 3-foot (914 mm) clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants except as otherwise required or approved.

508.5.6 Physical protection. Where fire hydrants are subject to impact by a motor vehicle, guard posts or other approved means shall comply with Section 312.

EXPLANATION

There shall be nothing around a fire appliance or fire equipment that would impair our ability to see it, access it, and/or use it. These appliances and equipment include fire hydrants, Fire District connections, post indicator valves, automatic fire sprinkler risers and control valves, all standpipe system hose cabinets and connections, hood and duct extinguishing systems, and fire extinguishers. The three foot minimum clear space shall apply not only to fire hydrants, but to all other fire protection equipment if deemed necessary by the inspector. Low height groundcover plants and grass may encroach upon the three-foot clear radius, as long as it does not impair our ability to utilize the equipment.

RATIONALE

If the Fire District cannot see or access the fire protection equipment, they cannot use them or would at the least severely delay the use of the equipment. This delay could allow the fire to grow and spread in your building and may cause significantly more damage and threat to life.