

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE



San Mateo County Fire Department

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Standard Detail and Specification Manual

Section: Developer Information	Title: Fire Lanes & Fire Department Connections
Effective: January 1, 2026	Revised: November 30, 2025
Number: CFS-09	Authorized By: Patrick Griffin, Fire Marshal

PURPOSE:

In order for fire suppression personnel to swiftly and effectively respond to emergency calls, access to fire-protection equipment must be maintained according to the following specifications. The Fire Chief may modify these specifications due to specific site conditions.

FIRE ACCESS LANE MARKING SPECIFICATIONS:

This standard is set in accordance with the 2025 California Fire Code, and San Mateo County Ordinance:

- Where required by the fire code official, approved signs or other approved notices or markings that include the words “NO PARKING—FIRE LANE” shall be provided for fire apparatus access roads to identify such roads or prohibit the obstruction thereof. The means by which fire lanes are designated shall be always maintained in a clean and legible condition and be replaced or repaired when necessary to provide adequate visibility.
- The designation shall be indicated (1) by a sign posted immediately adjacent to, and visible from, the designated place clearly stating in letters not less than one inch in height that the place is a fire lane, (2) by outlining or painting the place in red and, in contrasting color, marking the place with the words “FIRE LANE”, which are clearly visible from a vehicle, or (3) by a red curb or red paint on the edge of the roadway upon which is clearly marked the words “FIRE LANE”.
- If in the judgment of the San Mateo County Fire Department it is necessary to prohibit vehicular parking, or other materials or articles, along private fire access lanes in order to prevent obstruction of the required width of the fire access lane, signs shall be posted, as appropriate or as indicated in Section D103.6 with the addition of the following lettering near the bottom of the sign: (C.V.C.22500.1)

FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION SPECIFICATIONS:

This standard is set in accordance with the 2025 California Fire Code, and San Mateo County Ordinance:

- Immediate access to fire department connections shall be maintained at all times and without obstruction by fences, bushes, trees, walls or any other fixed or moveable object. Access to fire department connections shall be approved by the fire code official.

- When required by the Fire Code Official, fire protection equipment and fire hydrants shall be painted a color specified by the San Mateo County Fire Department.
- A working space of not less than 36 inches (914 mm) in width, 36 inches (914 mm) in depth and 78 inches (1981 mm) in height shall be provided and maintained in front of and to the sides of wall-mounted fire department connections and around the circumference of free-standing fire department connections, except as otherwise required or approved by the fire code official.
- A metal sign with raised letters not less than 1 inch (25 mm) in size shall be mounted on all fire department connections serving automatic sprinklers, standpipes or fire pump connections. Such signs shall read: "AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS" or "STANDPIPES" or "TEST CONNECTION" or a combination thereof as applicable. Where the fire department connection does not serve the entire building, a sign shall be provided indicating the portions of the building served.
- Fire department connections to sprinkler systems and/or standpipe systems shall clearly identify the building served as required by the San Mateo County Fire Department.

Sign(s) of a size, type, and design, approved by the San Mateo County Fire Department shall be provided to indicate the restriction of parking a vehicle within 3-feet of locations where fire department access is required to fire-protection equipment. Fire-protection equipment is considered, but not limited to devices such as fire sprinkler system control valves and Fire Department Connections. This 3-foot parking restriction may also be delineated as in the drawing below:

