

CENTRAL MARIN FIRE DEPARTMENT



Developed by the Marin County Fire
Prevention Officers

Approved by:

Ruben Martin, Fire Chief

Fire Protection Standard 210

ROADWAYS, DRIVEWAYS AND BRIDGES

Date: 08/21/2017

Revision: 01/01/2023

Page: 1 of 5

This Standard has been developed pursuant to Chapter 5, California Fire Code and the California Public Resources Code for State Responsibility Areas (SRA). It is intended that this standard be used as the minimum dimensions, engineering, and all weather surface criterion for all roads and driveways installed within the service area of the Central Marin Fire Department.

1. GENERAL

This Fire Protection Standard takes precedence over County of Marin, City of Larkspur and the Town of Corte Madera roadway and driveway design standards and criteria except where noted. For commercial and residential turn around minimum dimensions and engineering criteria, see additional Fire Protection Standards #211 and #214.

Roadways and driveways shall be installed prior to framing. At minimum, the first lift of A/C paving or concrete shall be installed as the minimum sub-base material and capable of supporting the designated gross vehicle weights specified below, prior to framing.

2. ROADWAYS

Width:

The minimum net horizontal unobstructed clearance shall be not less than 20 feet exclusive of gutters curbs and shoulders for roadways serving residential areas and shall be not less than 40 feet exclusive of gutters curbs and shoulders for roadways serving commercial areas.

Exception: Minimum roadway widths shall conform to County of Marin street classifications and in no case be less than 16 feet if approved by the Fire Code Official.

Vertical Clearance:

The minimum net vertical unobstructed clearance shall be not less than 15 feet.

Maximum Grade:

The maximum allowable grade for roadways shall be 18%.

Exception: Grades between 18% and 22% may be allowed with the expressed written approval of the Fire Code Official provided the length of that portion of the roadway does not exceed 100 feet, and that the sections immediately preceding and proceeding that portion of roadway for a distance of 200 feet on both sides, has grades not greater than 15%. This exception shall not be applied at fire hydrant locations and required fire apparatus turnouts.

The maximum allowable cross slope shall not exceed 8%.

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Page: 2 of 5

All Weather Surface (AWS) Defined:

All weather surface shall mean A/C paving, or concrete capable of supporting 70,000 gross vehicle weight. Grades up to and including 18% may be of A/C paving. Grades greater than 18% shall be of concrete curb-cut so as to allow for water run-off and traction.

Exception: Materials approved by the Fire Code Official.

Turns and Curvatures:

No roadway shall have a horizontal inside radius of curvature of less than fifty (50) feet.

Dead ends and Turnaround:

Dead end roads shall not exceed 800 feet. All roadways exceeding 150 feet in length shall have an approved cul-de-sac turn around located at the end of the roadway designed to Central Marin Fire Department Protection Standards for residential and commercial areas.

No Parking Fire Lane Signs and Posting:

All roadways, turnarounds, and turn outs are designated Fire Lanes. Parking is not permitted within the required clearance widths and shall be posted in accordance with Central Marin Fire Department Standard #204. Signs on public streets within the Central Marin Fire Department shall conform to the traffic engineering requirements of the County of Marin, City of Larkspur, And the Town of Corte Madera.

Gates:

If gates are installed across roadways, the owner, applicant or developer shall first obtain approval from the County of Marin, City of Larkspur, or the Town of Corte Madera's respective of jurisdiction. Gates shall not encroach into the minimum 20 ft. wide fire access width and shall have a minimum net clearance of two feet on both sides of street in addition to the required 20 ft. fire access width. Gates shall be equipped with key access in accordance with Central Marin Fire Department Standard #202.

Gates shall be set back from roadways a minimum of 30 feet or more so as not to cause cross traffic to stop or create a hazardous traffic condition on the roadway approach to the driveway.

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Revision: 01/01/2023

Page: 3 of 5

3. DRIVEWAYS

Width:

The minimum net horizontal unobstructed clearance shall not be less than 16 feet exclusive of curbs and shoulders.

Vertical Clearance:

The minimum net vertical unobstructed clearance shall be not less than 15 feet.

Maximum Grade:

The maximum allowable grade for driveways shall be 18%, measured along both sides of a driveway.

Exception: Grades between 18% and 22% may be allowed with the expressed written approval of the Fire Code Official provided the length of that portion of the driveway does not exceed 100 feet, and that the section immediately preceding and proceeding that portion of driveway for a distance of 200 feet on both sides, has grades not greater than 15%. This exception shall not be applied at fire hydrant locations and required fire apparatus turn-outs.

The maximum allowable cross slope shall not exceed 8%.

All Weather Surface Defined:

All Weather Surface shall mean A/C paving, or concrete capable of supporting 70,000 gross vehicle weight. Grades up to and including 18% may be of A/C paving. Grades greater than 18% shall be of concrete curb-cut so as to allow for water run-off and traction.

Exception: Materials approved by the Fire Code Official.

Turns and Curvatures:

The inside edge radius shall not be less than 27 feet.

Turn-outs:

When driveways exceed 300 feet or when required to accommodate relay pumping at a fire hydrant as determined by the Fire Code Official, approved turn-outs in driveways shall be provided for and designed so as to accommodate Central Marin Fire Department apparatus. The turn-out shall be installed at 300 foot intervals and not be less than 40 feet in length,

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Revision: 01/01/2023

Page: 4 of 5

exclusive of entrance and exit tapers. Turnouts shall be not less than 8 1/2 feet in width. In no case shall the width of the turn-out and the driveway be less than 24 1/2 feet. Grades at the turnout shall be no greater than 15%.

Dead ends and Turnaround:

Dead end driveways shall not exceed 800 feet (may be waived). All driveways exceeding 150 feet in length shall have an approved turnaround designed to Central Marin Fire Department Standards and so located to within 100 feet from the end of the driveway.

No Parking Fire Lane Signs and Posting:

All driveways, turnarounds, and turn outs are designated Fire Lanes. Parking is not permitted within the required clearance widths and shall be posted in accordance with Central Marin Fire Department Standard #204.

Gates:

If gates are installed across driveways, the owner, applicant or developer shall first obtain approval from the County of Marin, City of Larkspur, or the Town of Corte Madera's respective of jurisdiction. Gates shall not encroach into the required fire access width and shall have a minimum net clearance of two feet on both sides of the driveway in addition to the required 16 ft. fire access width. Gates shall be equipped with key access in accordance with Central Marin Fire Department Standard #202.

Gates shall be set back from roadways a minimum of 30 feet or more so as not to cause cross traffic to stop or create a hazardous traffic condition on the roadway approach to the driveway.

4. BRIDGES SERVING RESIDENTIAL DRIVEWAYS

Width:

The minimum net horizontal unobstructed clearance shall be not less than 16 feet for driveways and 20 feet for roadways exclusive of curbs and shoulders.

Vertical Clearance:

The minimum net vertical unobstructed clearance shall be not less than 15 feet.

Load Design, Testing, and Marking:

Bridges serving residential driveways shall be engineered for a minimum of 70,000 lbs. of gross vehicle weight. All bridges shall have affixed to each approach side of the bridge a reflective permanent metal sign that indicates the engineered maximum vehicle weight. Signs

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Revision: 01/01/2023

Page: 5 of 5

shall have black letters and numerals at least 4 inches in height with a one-inch stroke and on a yellow reflective metal panel.

Bridges shall be load tested and certified once every ten (10) years, where structural integrity is in question and when required by the Fire Code Official, by an approved and California licensed structural engineer in accordance with the American Association of State highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Manual: "The Manual for Bridge Evaluation," second edition, or other approved standard.

