

POLICY: FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EMERGENCY ACCESS ROADWAYS AND SCHOOL DROP-OFF AREAS

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish requirements based on State Fire Marshal Regulations contained in Titles 19 and 24 California Code of Regulations (CCR), and the California Vehicle Code for fire and emergency access roadways on public school or community college campuses, including fire and emergency access roadways combined with student drop-off and pick-up areas. Title 19 CCR does not address issues where the Vehicle Code may impose additional requirements.

BACKGROUND

In the case of Fire Department emergency vehicle access, Title 19 CCR, Article 3, Section 3.05(a) states “Required access roads from every building to a public street shall be all-weather hard-surfaced (suitable for use by fire apparatus) right-of-way not less than 20 feet in width. Such right-of-way shall be unobstructed and maintained only as access to the public street.”

The California Vehicle Code Section 22500.1 states, “In addition to Section 22500, no person shall stop, park, or leave standing any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a peace officer or an official traffic control device along the edge of any highway, at any curb, or in any location in a publicly or privately owned or operated off-street parking facility, designated as a fire lane by the fire department or fire district with jurisdiction over the area in which the place is located.”

Many existing California schools have drop-off or pick-up areas for students to either enter or exit school buses or a vehicle before and/or after school. In most cases these areas have a minimum width of 10 feet, and in some cases are parallel with the emergency vehicle access roadway (EVA).

1. POLICY

1.1 Emergency vehicle access roadways under the jurisdiction of DSA shall be a minimum of 20 feet wide and have a minimum vertical clearance no less than 13 feet, 6 inches as prescribed in CFC Section 503. Other heights will be accepted at the request of, or approval of, the Local Fire Authority and where justification is provided. DSA remains the Authority Having Jurisdiction and has final approval responsibility in all cases.

Each site submittal shall be evaluated and retrofit of existing or previously approved configurations will not be required unless the project scope for modifications or modernizations include fire access lanes or student drop-off and pick-up areas.

1.2 Required emergency vehicle access roadways shall not be combined with or overlap student drop-off/pick-up areas, nor shall the student drop-off/pick-up areas reduce the required width of the EVA.

1.3 Where vehicle drop-off areas are parallel with a designated fire access roadway, the minimum total combined required width shall be no less than 30 feet, and clearly marked by signage per Section 1.5 below.

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1.4 Student drop-off/pick-up areas shall be configured in such a manner so as to not obstruct the Fire or Emergency vehicles when school buses or private vehicles arrive and depart, and passengers enter or exit vehicles.

1.5 The marking of emergency vehicle access roadways shall be indicated per California Fire Code (CFC) Section 503.3, by one or more of the following means:

1.5.1 “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, or

1.5.2 “by outlining or painting the place in red and, in contrasting color, marking the place with the words ‘NO PARKING FIRE LANE’, which are clearly visible from a vehicle, or

1.5.3 “by a red curb or red paint on the edge of the roadway upon which is clearly marked the words ‘NO PARKING FIRE LANE’.”

1.6 Distances between posted signs shall be no more than 30 feet, or as requested by the Local Fire Authority and shall continue the full length of the EVA, or until one or more of the other approved signage methods are utilized.

1.7 Vehicles parked in designated emergency vehicle access roadways on public school campuses are subject to the California Vehicle Code and may be cited, towed, or impounded by local law enforcement authorities.

REFERENCES:

Title 19 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Public Safety, Chapter 1, Subchapter 1, Article 3, Section 3.05

Title 24 California Code of Regulations (CCR), Part 9 (CFC), Section 503, California Vehicle Code, Section 22500.1

A DSA Policy is a formally established set of governing statements based on law and code objectives, addressing any aspect of DSA's review and approval of plans and specifications and construction oversight programs that is not clearly addressed by code. A Policy also may specify administrative or technical requirements that are not yet addressed within Title 24, but are deemed important and necessary to fulfill code objectives in advance of adoption into the code