

Fire Vehicle Access Roads

Minneapolis Fire Inspection Policy #5-2

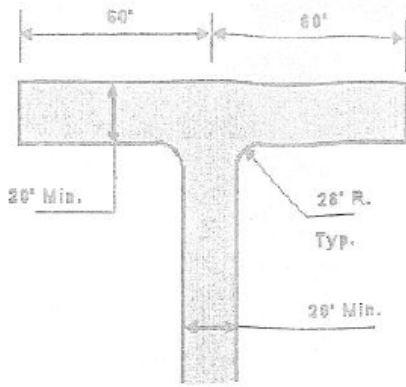
Last revision: January 26, 2015

Access roads (fire lanes) are needed where streets do not provide adequate access for fire department vehicles. This policy assembles and condenses the requirements from the Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC) and includes Minneapolis requirements and design parameters.

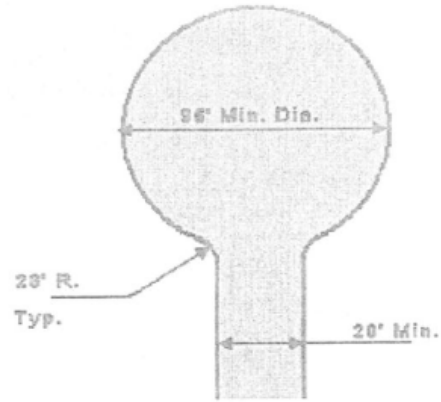
The MSFC requires that fire vehicle access be provided within 150 feet of all parts of the exterior new buildings, additions to buildings, new tanks, facilities, lumber and storage yards and buildings with change of occupancy type.

Minneapolis Acceptable Means of Compliance:

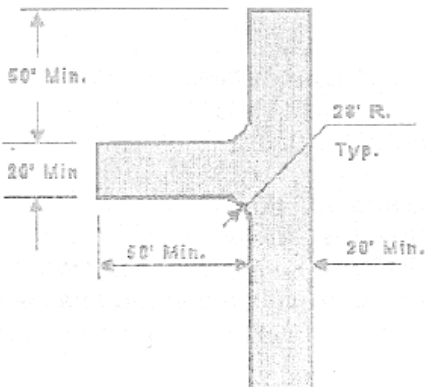
1. Minimum dimensions: 20 feet of unobstructed width and 13 feet 6 inches unobstructed vertical clearance.
2. Surface: The roads are to support the imposed loads of Minneapolis Fire Department apparatus and provide an all-weather driving surface. Grade: 10% maximum for concrete or asphalt surfaces. Bridges: The design live load is to support the imposed loads of MFD apparatus. Load limits are to be posted at each end of the bridge. Apparatus weights: 80,000-pound total weight. 60,000-pound axle weight.
3. Turning radius: **Inside radius:** 40 feet **Outside radius:** 70 feet **Dead-ends:** 150 feet maximum dead-end length. An approved turn around (see sheet #2) is to be provided every 150 feet for dead-end access roads.
4. Obstructions: Parking of vehicles or the placement of materials that obstruct all or a portion of a fire lane is prohibited at all times. Security gates are to be designed so as not to be obstructed by snow or ice and are to be readily operable by the fire department.
5. Signage (marking of fire lanes):
 - a. Signs are to be installed on both sides of fire lanes and are to be located at the beginning, at the termination and every 60 feet.
 - b. The signs are to be installed at 7 feet above grade and be 1 to 3 feet from the edge of the fire lane.
 - c. The signs are to be mounted on posts made of durable materials.
 - d. Signs are to state "Fire lane, No Parking" in re letters on a white background. Each sign is to be a minimum of 12 inches wide by 18 inches high.
6. Exterior access: Code required exterior access doors and openings are to be maintained readily accessible and approved access walkways are to lead from the fire lane to the openings.
7. The property owner is responsible for maintaining access rods, fire lanes, signs and exterior access.



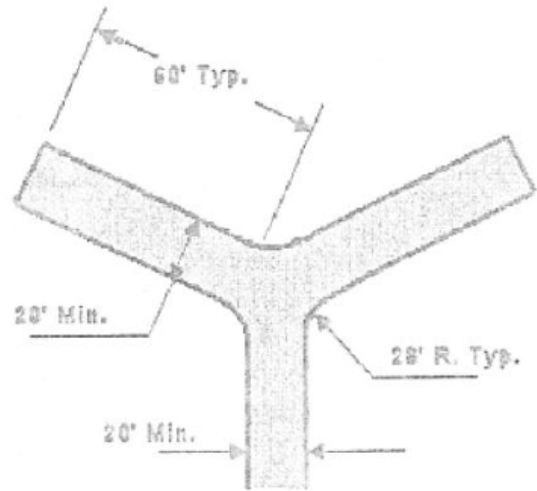
HAMMERHEAD



CUL DE SAC, 96' DIAMETER



ALTERNATIVE #1 TO HAMMERHEAD



ALTERNATIVE #2 TO HAMMERHEAD

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