

## U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

*Coffee Break Training***Topic: Fire Lane Identification**

**Learning objective:** The student shall be able to list four ways to identify fire lanes.

The model fire codes require fire apparatus access roads be provided for new buildings and facilities. The roads must be installed so firefighters can maneuver large and heavy fire apparatus to a position where they can be operated effectively and safely.

Often these access roads may be used in conjunction with other site development features such as parking lots, delivery zones, staging areas, and even pedestrian walkways. As a result, important fire apparatus access may be compromised by parked vehicles, outdoor storage, retail displays, or other obstructions.

The model codes authorize the local fire official to specify fire lane and access road markings to discourage parking and impediments. The *International Fire Code*<sup>®</sup> contains specifics in one of its appendices how this is to be done, while NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*<sup>™</sup> leaves the details to the local jurisdiction.

Some common ways to mark fire access roads include

- painted curbs with “No Parking Fire Lane” stencils;
- signs mounted on posts or pylons with similar language;
- signs attached to buildings with “No Parking” messages; and
- painted asphalt or concrete surfaces with “No Parking” warnings.



Some State and local ordinances and policies require that the specific fire code section number or adopted statute be included on the posted warning. Fire inspectors should check with their jurisdiction’s legal counsel to see what requirements must be met.

Code enforcement officials also should verify who is responsible for enforcing the parking and obstruction prohibitions. While the model fire codes require fire access roads be maintained by the property owner, local fire, police, or code enforcement officials may have the authority to cite violators.

For additional information, refer to NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*<sup>™</sup>, Chapter 18 or *International Fire Code*<sup>®</sup>, Chapter 5 and Appendix D.