

## Fire Lanes and General Information

1. HILLSBORO FIRE CODE, 2003 Edition of the ICC International Fire Code, Chapter 5, Fire Apparatus Access
  - A. Fire apparatus access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including, but not limited to, automobiles, dumpsters, fencing, etc.
  - B. Construction documents for proposed fire apparatus access, fire lanes, fire hydrants and limited access gates shall be submitted to the fire code official for review and approval prior to construction, and shall be submitted during the original building plans submittal phase to the City of Hillsboro, Community Development Dept. located at 214 E Elm St, Hillsboro, Texas 76645.

2. FIRE LANE Design Specifications:

To meet the requirements of the Hillsboro Fire/Rescue Department for adequate horizontal emergency access, all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of the building and all portions of the facility must be within 150 feet of a public street or designated fire lane. The fire lane must have a width of at least (20) feet and an overhead clearance of at least 13 feet 6 inches. If the fire lane exceeds 150 feet in length, it must intersect with a dedicated street at both ends, or end in a configuration conforming to one of the approved fire lane turnaround designs published in the 2003 edition of the International Fire Code, Appendix D.

STRIPING-Fire apparatus access roads should be marked with painted lines of red traffic paint six (6) inches in width to show the boundaries of the lane. The words "FIRE LANE NO PARKING" should appear in four (4) inch white letters at twenty-five (25) feet intervals on the red border markings along both sides of the fire lanes.

If signs are allowed by the fire code official they should read "NO PARKING FIRE LANE" and should be twelve (12) inches wide and eighteen (18) inches high. Signs should be painted on white background with letters and borders in red, using not less than two (2) inch lettering. Signs should be permanently affixed to a stationary post and should be at least six (6) inches above finished grade. Signs should be spaced not more than fifty (50) feet apart. Approved signs may be installed on permanent buildings or walls or as approved by the fire code official.

Additional Requirements:

1. Tenant Space

Entrance/Exit Interior

- A. Number: All rooms and spaces within each story shall be provided and have access to the minimum number of approved independent exits required by Table 1018.1 based on the occupant load except as modified in section 1014.1 or 1018.2 (IFC 2003 Chapter 10)
- B. Obstructed: A means of egress shall be free from obstructions that would prevent its use, including the accumulation of ice and snow. (IFC 1027.3)
- C. Reliability: Required exit accesses, exit or exit discharges shall be continuously maintained free from obstructions or impediments to the full instant use in case of fire or other emergency. Security devices affecting means of egress shall be subject to approval of the fire code official. (IFC 1027.2)

Exit Signs:

- A. Where Required: Exit and exit access doors shall be marked by an approved exit sign readily visible from any direction of egress travel. Access to the exits shall be marked by readily visible exit signs in cases where the exit or path of egress travel is not immediately visible to occupants. Exit sign placement shall be such that no point

in an exit access corridor is more than 100 feet of the listed viewing distance for the sign, whichever is less, from the nearest visible exit sign. (IFC 1011.1)

- B. Illumination: Exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated. (IFC 1011.2)
- C. Hardware: Doors, handles, pulls, latches, locks and other operating devices on doors required to be accessible by Chapter 11 of the International Building Code, shall not require tight grasping, tight pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate. (IFC 1008.1.8.1)

#### Key Lock Box Maintenance (Knox Box)

- A. Required: For immediate access for life-saving or firefighting purposes, the fire code official is authorized to require a key box to be installed in an approved location. The key box shall be of an approved type and shall contain keys to gain necessary access as required by the fire code official. (IFC 506.1)
- B. Maintenance: The operator of the building shall immediately notify the fire code official and provide the new key when a lock is changed or rekeyed. The key to such lock shall be secured in the key box. (IFC 506.2)

Address/Suite Number: Duty of the owners. Prior to the issuance of an occupancy permit for any new buildings, additions, alterations or any changes in for which an occupancy permit is required, other than for accessory buildings, it shall be the owner's duty to have placed, in a location easily observed, clear of obstruction and readable from the roadway, alley or similar access, Arabic numerals at least four inches high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inches showing the address of the building or structure. House or building numbers shall contrast with the background, shall be constructed of durable materials, be permanently installed and be readily visible. Script or written numbers are not permitted. On corner lots where the building faces the intersecting street, additional numbers shall also be placed on the side of the buildings street address.

- C. Existing Commercial/Residential Buildings: It is recommended that the occupant, and or owner of an existing home or business follow the Recommendations/Requirement guidelines provided in the previous paragraph. (Section B)

#### Electrical:

##### Outlets:

- a. Proper Location: Hazardous conditions arising from defective or improperly used or installed wiring, equipment or appliances shall be remediated. (IFC 605.1)
- b. Proper Number: Hazardous conditions arising from improperly used outlets (multiple pieces of equipment and appliances) shall be remediated. (IFC 605.1)
- c. Covers: Each outlet box shall have a cover, faceplate or fixture canopy. Open junction boxes and open wiring splices shall be prohibited. Appropriate covers shall be provided for all switch and electrical boxes. (IFC 605.6)
- d. Safety Covers/Caps: It is recommended that electrical outlets be protected with child safety covers especially in homes, and businesses where small children are present.

#### Extension Cords:

- A. Condition: Extension cords shall not be used as a substitute for permanent wiring, Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be fixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings or floors or under doors or floor coverings nor shall such cords be subject to environmental damage or physical impact. (IFC 605.5)
- B. Maintenance: Extension cords shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration or damage. (IFC 605.5.3)
- C. Temporary Wiring: Temporary wiring for electrical power and lighting installations is allowed for a period not to exceed 90 days. Temporary wiring methods shall meet the applicable provisions of the National Electric Code. (IFC 605.5 & 605.9)

#### Portable Fire Extinguisher

- A. General Requirements: Portable fire extinguishers shall be selected, installed, and maintained in accordance with this section and NFPA 10. (IFC 906.2)
- B. Location: Portable fire extinguishers shall be installed in locations in accordance with the code. (IFC 906.1)
- C. Conspicuous Location: Extinguishers shall be located in conspicuous locations where they are readily accessible and immediately available for use. In rooms or areas in which visual obstruction cannot be completely avoided, means shall be provided to indicate the locations of extinguishers. (IFC 906.6)
- D. Service, Maintenance, and testing: It is the owner, or occupant's responsibility to have portable fire extinguishers serviced, and maintained. Frequency should be at least once annually, and should be performed by a State licensed Fire Extinguisher Service company, and properly tagged. The owner or occupant should perform periodic visual inspections of the extinguishers to ensure they are in good working order, fully charged, readily available and unobstructed.

For additional assistance with any Fire/Safety questions, concerns, code interpretations or to request a courtesy safety/survey please contact the City of Hillsboro Department of Public Safety Fire Marshal or local Fire Dept.

Hillsboro Fire/Rescue  
Department of Public Safety  
Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal  
James Peacock  
Office: 254-582-5873 EXT 10  
Fire/Rescue: 254-582-2401  
Fax: 254-582-9155  
Email: [jpeacock@hillsborotx.org](mailto:jpeacock@hillsborotx.org)