

City of Hudsonville
Fire Safety and Prevention

Ordinance No. 182

Section 6-120. Purpose. The purpose of this article is to:

- (a) Guard against the occurrence of fires;
- (b) Protect the property and lives of the citizens, property owners, and those employed within the City against damage and accident resulting from fires;
- (c) Govern conditions hazardous to life and property from fire or explosion; and
- (d) Provide for proper utilities, accessories and access required by the fire department to aid in fighting fires.

Section 6-121. Administrative Authority. The fire department shall be responsible for enforcing compliance with this article. Site plans of all new construction, additions and renovations requiring site plan review shall be submitted to the fire chief for approval before site plan approval is given. The City's building inspector shall check with the fire chief prior to issuing any occupancy permit to ensure that all required fire related improvements have been made and the provisions of this article have been complied with.

Section 6-122. Liability of Damages. This article shall not be construed to relieve or lessen the responsibility or liability of any party owning, controlling or installing any building material, devices or equipment for damages to persons or property caused by the defect therein; nor shall the City or any of its officers, agents or employees be held as assuming responsibility for any damages to persons or property by reason of the enforcement or lack of enforcement of any of the provisions of this article.

Section 6-123. Access to Fire Hydrants. All commercial, industrial and institutional buildings in the City shall be located not more than 300 feet from a public fire hydrant by direct public or private road access. All residential buildings shall be located not more than 500 feet from a public fire hydrant by direct public or private road access. Public fire hydrants shall be located immediately adjacent to and not more than 20 feet from public or private roads.

Section 6-124. Supplemental Fire Hydrants. Supplemental fire hydrants serving all buildings use types shall be provided in a ratio of at least one hydrant for every 160,000 square feet of ground area or portion thereof involved in the development, subject to the fire flow requirements established by the fire chief.

Supplemental fire hydrants shall be provided for all buildings, except one and two-family residential dwellings, that are:

- (a) Over 100 feet in length or width or both; and/or
- (b) Situated at a distance greater than 100 feet from a public road; or
- (c) Of such size, construction, location or occupancy use in relationship to public roads and public fire hydrants as may be deemed by the fire chief to constitute a condition hazardous to life and property due to fire or explosion and when deemed necessary by the fire chief for the fire department to serve the premises.

Supplemental fire hydrants shall include water mains not less than 6 inches in diameter and dedicated to the public use of the City. The fire chief shall determine the number and size of hydrants, gates and gate walls, and their location, as he deems reasonable and necessary in order to provide sufficient supplemental fire protection to the premises.

Supplemental fire hydrants shall not be located greater than 500 feet from the furthest point of the building to be served nor shall they be located greater than 20 feet from an approved public or private road.

Section 6-125. Fire Lane Requirements and Design Standards. The following requirements and design standards shall apply to fire lanes:

- (a) **Required Fire Lane Locations.** Fire lanes shall be required for all uses except one and two-family residential dwellings in accordance with Table 6-1. The required number and location of fire lanes is illustrated in Figures 6-1, 6-2 and 6-3.
- (b) **Width.** Fire lanes shall be 20 feet wide.
- (c) **Weight Standard.** Fire lanes shall be constructed so that they are capable of supporting vehicles having 20 tons on a single axle with dual wheels and standard road tires.
- (d) **Dual Use.** Fire lanes may be included within a parking lot or may be constructed as a separate facility.
- (e) **Access to Building.** Each side of a building where a fire lane is required shall have an entrance as close to the center of the building as possible.

TABLE 6-1 REQUIRED NUMBER OF FIRE LANES		
Building Size	Required Sides	Location of Fire Lane
With longest side up to 150 feet	1	on longest side
With longest side up to 300 feet	2	1 on longest side
With longest side up to 400 feet	3	2 on longest sides
With longest side over 400 feet		
Notes: 1. If the longest side is longer than 400 feet, or if the building is of an unusual shape or configuration, the fire chief shall have the authority to require additional fire lanes. 2. If the building is less than 12,000 square feet and fully sprinklered, only one fire lane (on the longest side) shall be required.		

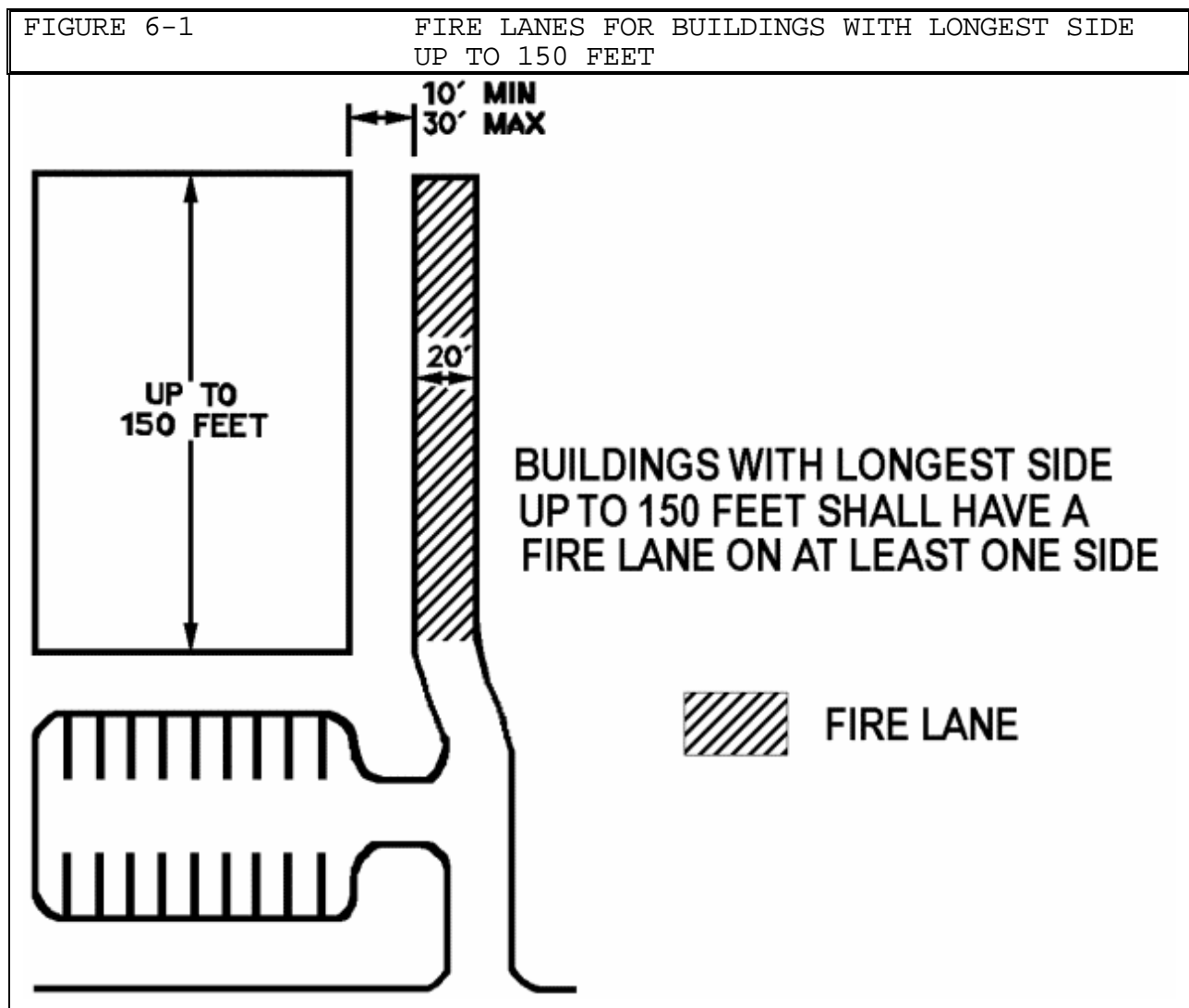


FIGURE 6-2

FIRE LANES FOR BUILDINGS WITH
LONGEST SIDE BETWEEN 151 AND 300
FEET

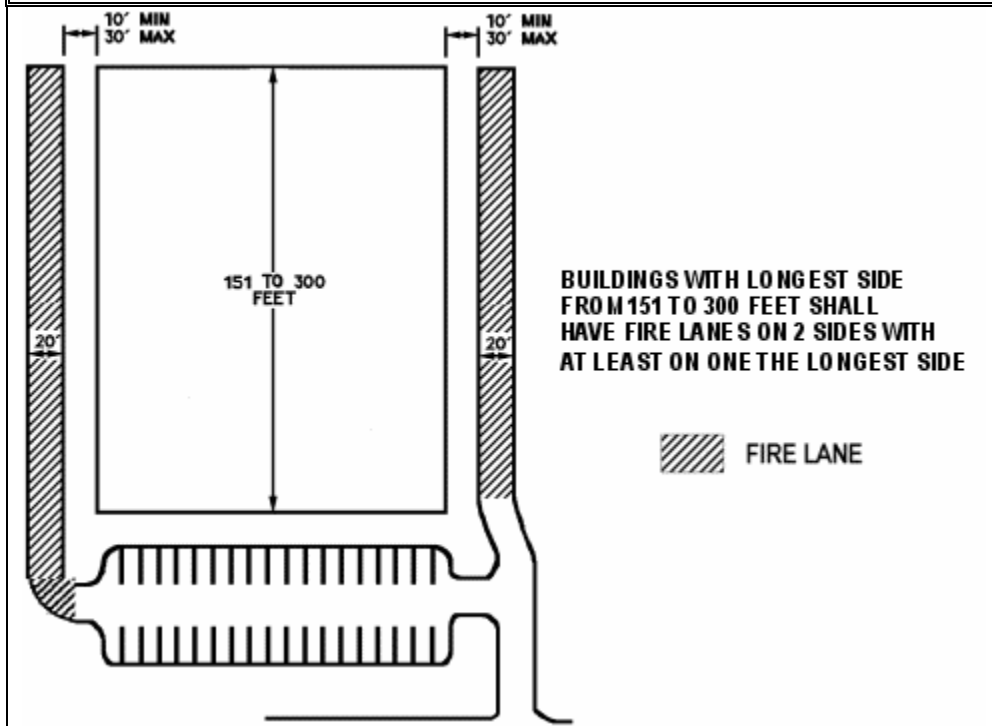
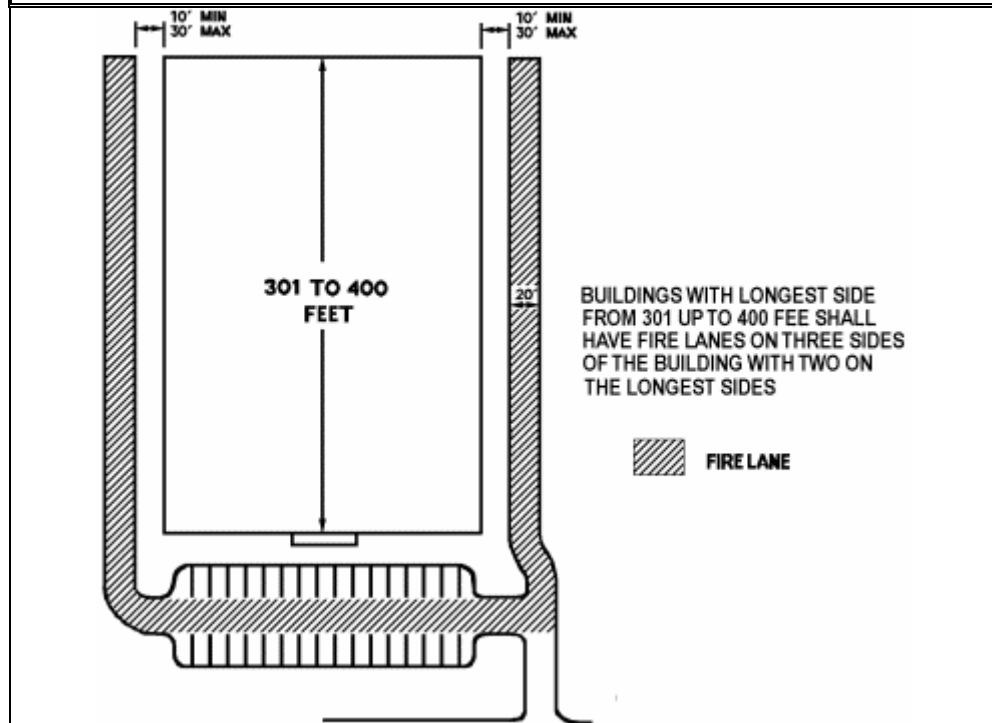
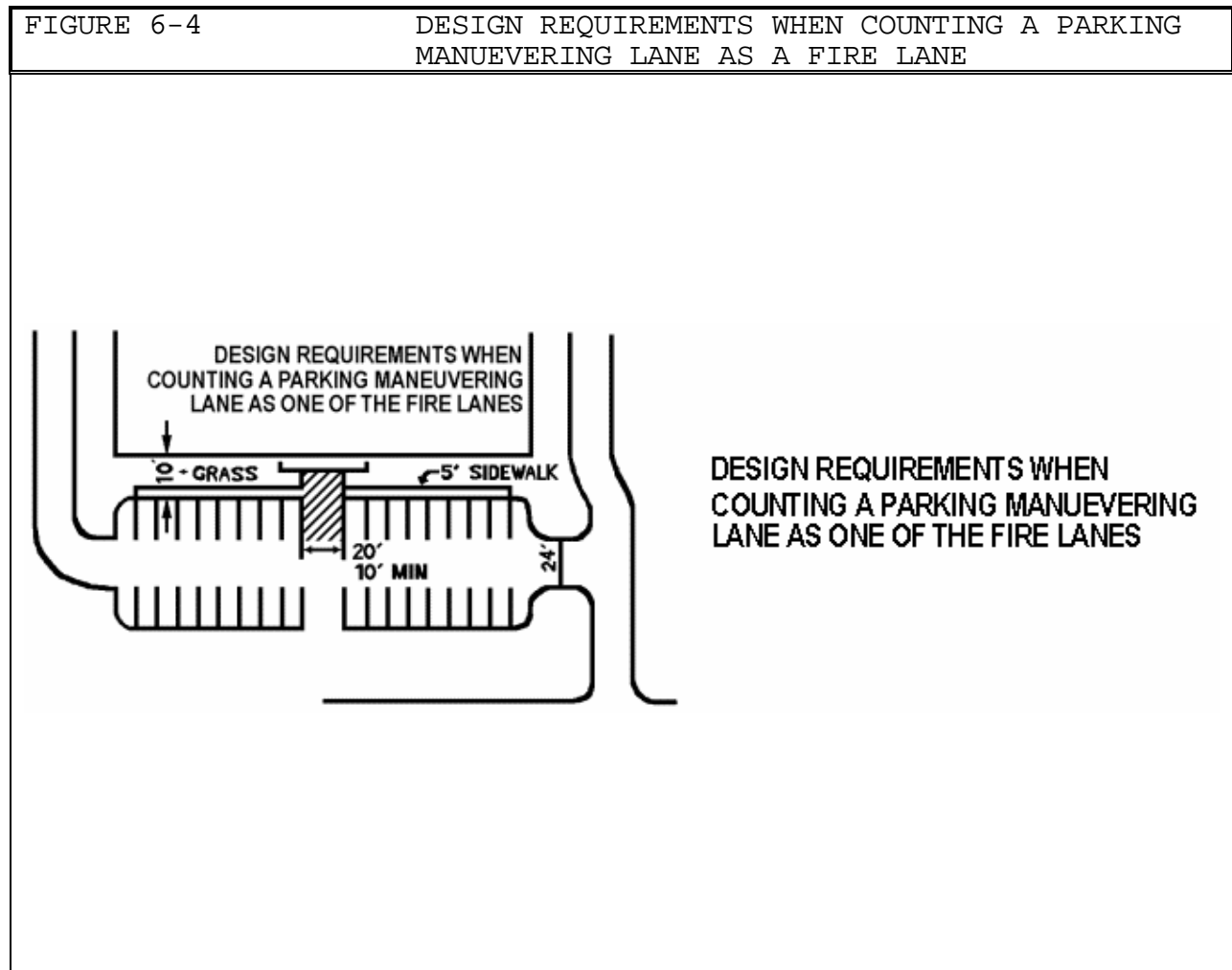


FIGURE 6-3

FIRE LANES FOR BUILDINGS WITH LONGEST
SIDE BETWEEN 301 AND 400 FEET



- (f) **Use of Maneuvering Aisle or Fire Lane.** Parking against a building with proper fire lanes may be permitted without the need for "No Parking--Fire Lane" signs under certain circumstances at the discretion of the fire chief. If permitted, the design criteria shown in Figure 6-4 shall be followed.



- (g) **Distance From Building.** Fire lanes shall be a minimum of 10 feet and a maximum of 30 feet distance from a building.
- (h) **Maintenance.** All fire lanes must be maintained and remain unobstructed at all times. Snow removal must be maintained at the same level as the building parking lot.
- (i) **Signage.** "No Parking--Fire Lane" signs shall be placed at the discretion of the fire chief, but in no event shall they be placed closer than 25 feet apart or further than 75 feet apart.

Section 6-126. Construction Rules. Combustible building materials shall not be erected until the following has been accomplished:

- (a) Operable fire hydrants are in place within 500 road feet of the furthest point of any structure being constructed.
- (b) An access road (20 feet wide, able to support 20 tons on a single axle with dual wheels and standard road tires) must be constructed to within 100 feet of the furthest point of the structure. This road may be gravel, but must be maintained at all times.
- (c) No combustible rubbish shall be accumulated on the construction site. Disposal by burning is not permitted.

Section 6-127. Key Box. When access to or within a structure or an area is unduly difficult because of secured openings or where immediate access is necessary for life-saving or fire-fighting purposes, the fire chief shall require a key box to be installed in an accessible location. The key box shall be a type approved by the fire chief and shall contain keys to gain necessary access as required by the fire chief. Single and two-family residential dwellings are exempt from the requirements of this section.

Section 6-128. Tampering with Fire Hydrants, Fire Extinguishers or Fire Apparatus. Any person who shall, without authority of the fire chief or his designee, open any fire hydrant, or who shall wantonly, maliciously, willfully or in a negligent manner tamper with, injure, destroy, damage, break, disturb or impair any fire hydrant, any fire fighting appliance or alarm, including but not limited to a supplemental fire protection system, and the constituent parts and equipment thereof, or any fire fighting equipment or apparatus or anything pertaining to the fire fighting system, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable as set forth in Section 6-133 hereof.

Section 6-129. Obstructing and Disobeying Firefighters. Any person who shall knowingly or willfully hinder, obstruct or interfere with any firefighter in the performance of his duties, or who shall while within the vicinity of any fire, willfully disobey or disregard any order, directive, rule or regulation of the officer commanding any fire scene activity during or after such fire, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable as set forth in Section 6-133 hereof.

Section 6-130. Numbering of Buildings. The numbers assigned by the City in accordance with the regulations of the United States Postal Service to buildings, structures and premises in the City shall be the number to which reference is hereinafter made.

The placement of numbers shall be accomplished as follows:

- (a) Every residential building/unit having a doorway to the exterior of the premises and located at a distance of 90 feet or less from the closest public or private road shall display the address number on the building in Arabic numbers which shall be readily visible on the public or private road.

- (b) Every residential building/unit having a doorway to the exterior of the premises and located at a distance greater than 90 feet from the closest public or private road shall display the address number on the building in Arabic numbers and also display the address number at one additional location not further than 10 feet from a public road or 20 feet from a private road. The numbers displayed closest to the road shall be readily visible on the public or private road. A mailbox may be used to meet the requirement for display of the numbers if it is located on the same side of the street and is in front of the residential building/unit it serves.
- (c) Every building occupied, used or intended for use as assembly, business, educational, high hazard, industrial, institutional, mercantile or storage occupancy shall have Arabic numerals displayed in such manner as to be readily visible on the public road in front of said building.
- (d) In any case where building appurtenances, structures, or vegetation obscures the required number display, the fire chief shall have the authority to order whatever corrective action is required so that the intent of this section is achieved.

The size of the Arabic numbers on buildings shall be a minimum of 4 inches in height. The size of the Arabic numbers at other locations shall be determined based upon the size required to ensure readability from the public or private road.

The color of the Arabic numbers shall be in contrast with the immediate background on which they are mounted. The Arabic numbers shall be displayed to permit them to be visible during all hours of normal daylight.

All new and existing developed property shall be identified as required by this section.

Applicants for building permits for new construction or alterations to existing structures shall be given a copy of the requirements for numbering buildings and shall comply with such requirements prior to requesting final inspection of the project.

Building numbers may be spelled out on the building for decorative purposes, however, Arabic numbers must also be used in accordance with the requirements of this section.

Section 6-131. Modification of Requirements. The fire chief shall have the right to modify any of the requirements of this article upon application in writing by the owner or occupant of a building, structure or premise, or his duly authorized agent, when there are practical difficulties in strictly carrying out the requirements of this article, provided that the spirit of this article shall be observed. The particulars of such modification shall be entered upon the records of the fire department and a copy shall be furnished the person requesting such modification.

Section 6-132. Appeal. Whenever the fire chief shall not grant a modification requested pursuant to Section 6-131 hereof, or when it is claimed that the provisions of this article do not apply, or that the true intent or meaning of this article has been misconstrued or wrongly interpreted, the aggrieved person may appeal in writing to the fire chief. If still not satisfied, the aggrieved person may further appeal the fire chief's decision in writing to the safety committee of the city commission within 15 days of the date of the fire chief's decision.

Section 6-133. Penalties. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this article or who fails to comply therewith, or who shall violate or fail to comply with any order made hereof, and from which no appeal has been taken or if taken as been fully exhausted in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 6-132 hereof, shall for each and every violation and non-compliance respectively, be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable as set forth in Section 1-13 hereof. The imposition of a penalty for any violation or non-compliance shall not excuse the violation or non-compliance or permit it to continue; and all such responsible persons shall be required to correct or remedy such violations or non-compliances within a time limit specified by the fire chief; and when not otherwise specified, each day that a violation or non-compliance continues shall constitute a separate offense. The application of the above penalty shall not be held to prevent the enforced removal of prohibited conditions or enforcement of the requirements of this article by appropriate court action.

Section 6-134. Fees. A fee or fees may be charged for the services provided in Section 6-121 hereof as shall be established from time to time by resolution of the City Commission.