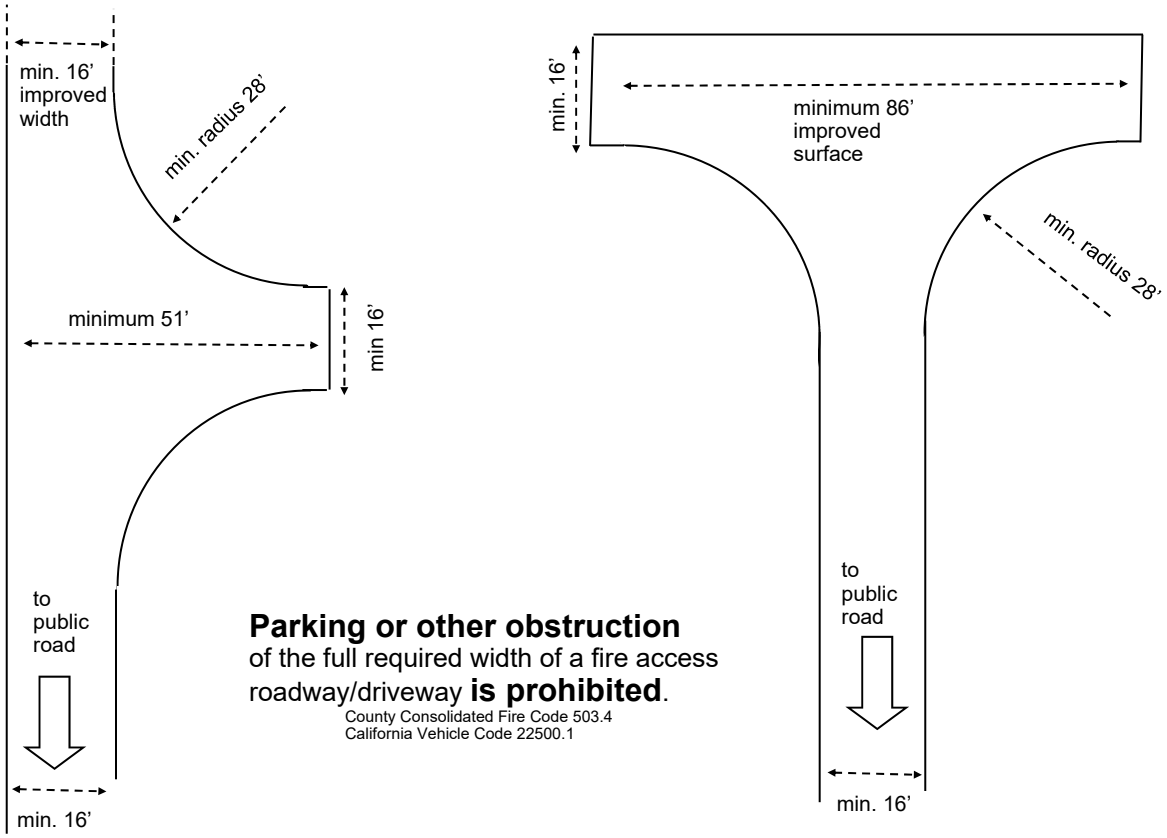
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

5560 OVERLAND AVE., SUITE 400, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123 • (858) 974-5999

Emergency Vehicle Turnaround

Hammerhead Turnaround

Residential fire access road/driveway serving no more than two parcels

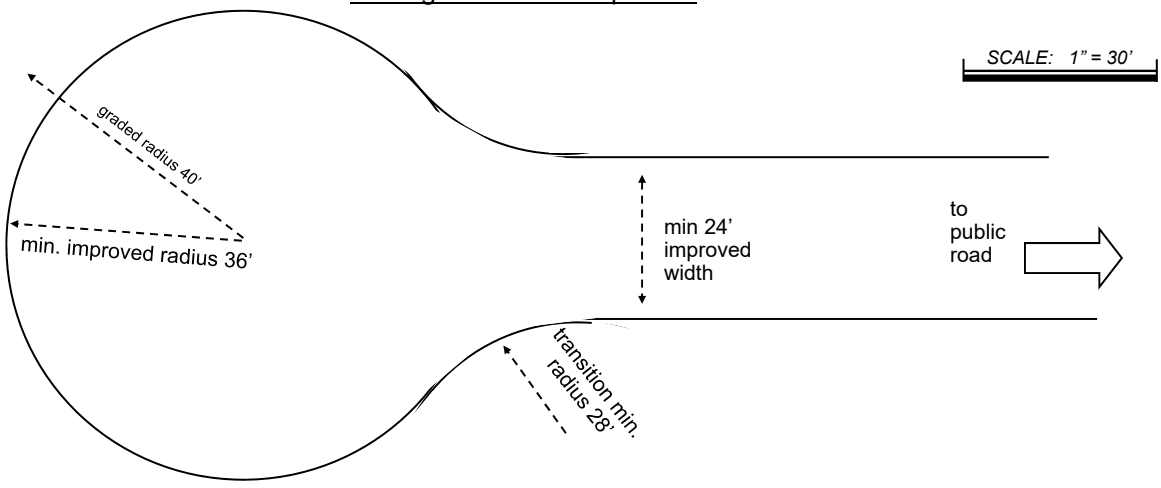


Parking or other obstruction of the full required width of a fire access roadway/driveway **is prohibited**.

County Consolidated Fire Code 503.4
California Vehicle Code 22500.1

Cul-de-sac Turnaround

Residential fire access road serving three or more parcels



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Emergency Vehicle Turnaround

Code Excerpts:

SECTION 503
FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS

Sec. 503.1 General. Fire apparatus access roads shall be provided and maintained in compliance with this section and the most recent edition and any amendments thereto, of public and private road standards as adopted by the County of San Diego (San Diego County Standards for Private Roads and Public Roads, San Diego County Department of Public Works). The fire code official may modify the requirements of this section if the modification provides equivalent access.

Sec. 503.1.1 Buildings and facilities. Approved fire apparatus access roads shall be provided for every facility, building or portion of a building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction. The fire apparatus access road shall comply with the requirements of this section and shall extend to within 150 feet of all portions of the facility and all portions of the *exterior walls* of the first story of the building as measured by an *approved* route around the exterior of the building or facility.

Sec. 503.2.1 Dimensions. The dimensions of fire apparatus access roads shall be in accordance with the following:
(a) Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed improved width of not less than 24 feet, except as provided in section 503.2.1.1 for single-family residential driveways serving no more than two residential parcels, which shall have a minimum of 16 feet of unobstructed improved width. Any of the following, which have separated lanes of one-way traffic: gated entrances with card readers, guard stations or center medians, are allowed, provided that each lane is not less than 14 feet wide.
(b) Fire apparatus access roads that are public or private roads which are provided or improved as a result of a Tentative Map, Tentative Parcel Map or a Major/Minor Use Permit shall have the dimensions as set forth by the County of San Diego Standards for Public and Private Roads.
(c) All fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches.
(d) Vertical clearances or road widths shall be increased when the fire code official determines that vertical clearances or road widths are not adequate to provide fire apparatus access.
(e) Vertical clearances or road width may be reduced when the fire code official determines the reduction does not impair access by fire apparatus. In cases where the vertical clearance has been reduced, approved signs shall be installed and maintained indicating the amount of vertical clearance.

Sec. 503.2.3 Surface. Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus (not less than 75,000 lbs. unless authorized by the fire code official) and shall be provided with an approved surface so as to provide all-weather driving capabilities. The paving and sub-base shall be installed to the standards specified in the County of San Diego Parking Design Manual.

Sec. 503.2.4 Roadway radius. The horizontal inside radius of a fire apparatus access road shall comply with the County of San Diego Public and Private Road Standards. The horizontal inside radius for a public or private driveway shall be a minimum of 28 feet, as measured on the inside edge of the improvement width or as approved by the fire code official. The length of vertical curves of fire apparatus access roads shall not be less than 100 feet, or as approved by the fire code official.

Sec. 503.2.5 Dead ends. Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet in length shall be provided with approved provisions for turning around emergency apparatus. A cul-de-sac or other approved turnaround shall be provided in residential areas where the fire apparatus access roads serve 3 or more parcels. The minimum unobstructed radius width for a cul-de-sac in a residential area shall be 36 feet paved, 40 feet graded, or as approved by the fire code official.

Sec. 503.2.9 Roadway Turnouts. When required by the fire code official, turnouts shall be a minimum of 12 feet wide and 30 feet long with a minimum 25 foot taper on each end.