



City of Aurora Public Works Department  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS  
ROADS DURING CONSTRUCTION GUIDE**

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**To Whom It May Concern:**

**RE: FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS ROADS DURING CONSTRUCTION**

The purpose of this letter is to call your attention to the City of Aurora's requirements for adequate access to construction sites and projects. The effectiveness of the Aurora Fire Department is largely a function of response time. An unobstructed, passable driving surface is critical when even seconds impact the outcome of medical and fire emergencies.

As you know, permanent roadways are required before a Certificate of Occupancy will be issued by the City for any building. The International Fire Code, as amended by the Aurora City Council, recognizes that permanent paved access roads (concrete or asphalt) are sometimes not practical during the early stages of a construction project. A temporary access road is required prior to vertical construction or at time of excavation for larger commercial projects (construction beyond the foundation) or flammable liquids and combustible materials are brought onto the building site. Prior to any vertical construction beyond the foundation, both temporary emergency access and operational fire hydrants must be established.

**The specifications for temporary emergency access roads are as follows:**

**Driving Surface:** Prior to any above ground level construction or erection of a structure, whether the principal structure materials are combustible or of a non-combustible nature, there shall be adequate all-weather access roadways provided for use by fire apparatus. Fire access shall be maintained to adequately support weight of fire apparatus with a minimum imposed weight of 85,000 lbs. These temporary access roadways shall not be less than 20 ft. in width with standard turning radii of 29 ft. inside and 52 ft. outside. The material used to construct these roadways may be of any one of, or a combination of, several aggregate materials available. Approved materials include premixed road base material, 1-1.5 angular inch river rock, crushed granite or other aggregate with not less than one-inch nominal size designation. If the contractor/developer wish to use a granular base and be able to utilize it in the final pavement section the granular base material must be in conformance with Type 2 or 2A material per Section 23.02 of the Roadway Design & Construction Specifications. The Building Division Fire Life Safety representative may approve other roadway materials. In no way shall designations in this policy be intended or construed to prohibit asphalt paving or additional requirements as necessary.

**Secondary Access:**

- **More than one access road:** Required when it is determined by Fire Life Safety within the Building Division that a single road may be impaired by vehicle congestion, climatic conditions or other factors that could limit access.
- **Access:** Fire department vehicle access shall be provided at all times during construction. Construction vehicles and materials shall not block access to buildings, hydrants or fire appliances. Site development managers and/or building construction superintendents shall have the responsibility to monitor emergency service access conditions on a daily basis. When conditions are such that emergency service access is diminished in minimum required width, capability of carrying imposed loads and/or providing adequate traction, appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate such conditions to once again provide adequate emergency service access. Fire Inspectors have the authority to make decisions regarding access conditions and adequacy of mitigation measures.
- **Location:** The temporary fire apparatus access road shall be provided to within 100 ft. of all exterior walls of the first floor of the each building constructed within the site. The route of a temporary fire apparatus access road will typically fall in the area of the proposed fire lane or street layout
- **Fire Hydrants:** The number and spacing of fire hydrants delivering the required fire flow shall be installed and made serviceable prior to vertical construction. When more than one Fire Hydrant is required, they must be supplied by a looped water supply line.
- **Fire Apparatus Turnarounds:** A hammerhead or three-point turnaround will be required on dead-end fire apparatus roads in excess of 150 ft. For a detail of the currently accepted fire apparatus turnarounds see the International Fire Code, Appendix D.
- **Maximum Grade:** The maximum grade for fire apparatus access roads shall not exceed 10% in path of travel, and 4% transverse.

Please be aware that your site is subject to periodic Building and Fire Department inspection, and it is within our authority to issue a stop work order for non-compliance with the above regulations. I am sure you recognize the importance of emergency access to life and property protection of your project.

Sincerely,

Scott Berg  
City of Aurora Chief Building Official

Caine Hills  
City of Aurora Fire Marshal