



# COALINGA FIRE DEPARTMENT

GREG DUPUIS, FIRE CHIEF

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| CITY OF COALINGA FIRE DEPARTMENT |                                |                               |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| FIRE PREVENTION STANDARD         |                                |                               |
| STANDARD TITLE:                  | FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS         |                               |
| STANDARD NUMBER: 403.002         | EFFECTIVE DATE: March 15, 2022 | REVISION DATE: March 15, 2022 |

## ***PURPOSE***

This policy has been established to provide direction for the requirements of the Coalinga Fire Department's (CFD or Department) for providing minimum fire department access to properties within the City of Coalinga.

## ***APPLICATION***

This policy applies to developers and licensed contractors completing construction projects within the City of Coalinga (City).

## ***OPERATIONAL POLICY***

The purpose of fire department apparatus access is to allow emergency vehicles to approach a building as close as practical in order to deploy fire hose, ladders, and other equipment necessary for rescue and fire suppression.

Department emergency vehicles are the longest, widest, tallest, and heaviest vehicles regularly driven on residential streets, private driveways, and alleys. The ability to manipulate and deploy Department apparatus is greatly affected by the dimensions and reliability of the access available.

Access, as defined in this policy, includes private streets and driveways not otherwise defined under City of Coalinga Public Works (PW) Standards for Streets.

### **A. General Fire Access Requirements:**

1. All building openings will be accessible within 200 feet of a public street, private driveway, or other approved access.
2. Buildings and exterior storage areas sited so that all building openings or exterior storage area perimeters are within 650 feet (450 feet driving distance plus 200-foot hose pull) of the property entrance drive may have a single point of access with approved turnarounds as needed complying with this policy.



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3. Buildings not meeting the criteria in Item 2 above will have a minimum of two (2) points of vehicle access. The second point of access can be an approved Emergency Vehicle Access as described below. Unusual designs may require additional access points and must receive prior approval by the Fire Marshal, or designee.
4. When two (2) points of access are required, they will be placed at a distance apart equal to or not less than one-half the length of the maximum diagonal dimension of the lot or area served, measured in a straight line between access points. Unusual lot configurations or other site restrictions may be allowed by the Fire Marshal, or designee, subject to review and analysis of the access.
5. All types of fire apparatus access will have a minimum clear width of 20 feet and a vertical clearance of 13 feet, 6 inches over the entire length of the access.
6. Where gates are installed across fire access drives, the full open width of the drive aisle must be maintained clear of gate hardware. (See: Fire Prevention Manual, Section 403.004, Emergency Services Bypass Locks for Secured Access Developments, for information regarding emergency access bypass lock requirements).
7. Fire access drives separated by a median will have a minimum width of 15 feet on each side of the median.
8. All types of access will not exceed a ten (10) percent grade or contain any irregularity creating an angle of approach or departure in excess of ten (10) percent, except as approved by the Fire Marshal, or designee.
9. Required fire access roads will be provided with an all-weather surface before delivery of combustible material on site, and will be maintained in service during all phases of construction. Alternative or phased fire access requires approval by the Fire Department. Failure to maintain fire access may result in a Stop Work Order until access is restored.
10. Temporary gates installed during construction will be provided with Fire X1 padlocks; a padlock model is available with a red construction core for use by both the contractor and the Department. The core will be changed out by the contractor upon completion of the project.
11. Non-traditional pavement systems such as turf pavers, grasscrete, etc., are not allowed for EVA approaches or access drives in the public way as required by the Public Works Department. Such alternate paving material used on private property is subject to approval by the Fire Marshal, or designee. The design of



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such system must be prepared by a Civil Engineer and submitted to the City of Coalinga Building and Safety Division for plan review and installation permits. The path of such surfaces must be clearly edge delineated by an approved permanent method such as six (6”) inch concrete mow strips.

12. Vertical displacement traffic calming devices or pavements treatment are prohibited on both public and private streets (See: Fire Prevention Manual, Section 403.007, Vertical Displacement Traffic Calming Devices).
13. Regardless of parking configurations, a minimum clear drive aisle width of 20 feet is required. The Fire Marshal, or designee, may require increases in drive aisle width due to specific site issues and for aerial ladder truck access. (See: Fire Prevention Manual, Section 403.005, Requirements for Marking Fire Lanes on Private Property).

## B. Emergency Vehicle Access (EVA):

1. Gates, posts, or other barriers approved by the Department will be installed at each entrance to emergency vehicle access points and when required by the Fire Marshal, or designee, where EVA driveways are needed for connection to the interior common access road system.
2. A Fire X-1 padlock will be installed on manually operated gates used solely for emergency vehicle access and may be used in conjunction with owner or utility services padlocks. **The Fire Marshal, or designee, is authorized to require electric gate Click-to-Enter radio frequency gate operating hardware where EVA access is needed from freeways or other high speed traffic corridors.**
3. Entrances to all emergency vehicle access points will be posted with permanent signs on both sides of the EVA entrance with the following wording: “FIRE LANE” in six-inch letters, “VEHICLES REMOVED AT OWNER’S EXPENSE” in two-inch letters and display a telephone number the vehicle owner can call to recover their vehicle. (See: Fire Prevention Manual, Section 403.005, Requirements for Marking Fire Lanes on Private Property).
4. Where EVA access drives are not provided with gates or barriers at each entrance, the drive aisle curb or side of road will be marked with “FIRE LANE NO PARKING at 50 foot intervals. (See: Fire Prevention Manual, Section 403.005, Requirements for Marking Fire Lanes on Private Property).



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5. Where access to an EVA is from a public or private street that is improved with a curb, a Public Works Standard P-6 approach is acceptable. Use of a wedged or rolled curb for a driveway approach is not acceptable.
6. Where access to an EVA gate is from an adjacent parcel(s), a recorded access easement is required between all affected property owners and will be executed with the Planning entitlement through the Planning Division of the Department of Resource Management (DARM).

#### C. Turnarounds:

1. Buildings and exterior storage areas with a single point of access in excess of 150 feet in length are required to be provided with approved turnarounds. Turnarounds will be located within 150 feet of the termination of the single entry road. Portions of the road requiring fire apparatus to back up will not include any turns or bends, except for the required turnarounds.
2. Intermediate turnarounds will be required for multiple points of access exceeding 700 feet in length.
3. All turnarounds will have a minimum 34 foot inside turning radius,” a minimum length and width of 90 X 24 and minimum clear approach drive width of 22 feet for a distance of 60 feet.
4. Turnarounds will be kept clear of all obstructions and marked as fire lanes on the perimeter curb or edge of the turnaround.
5. Turnaround areas cannot be incorporated into loading zones.

#### D. Aerial Fire Apparatus Access:

1. Where building roof eaves are more than 30 feet in height, as measured from the grade of the adjacent fire access road, 26-foot minimum wide driveways will be located directly adjacent to at least one long side of the building. The aerial fire apparatus access will extend at least 45 feet beyond each end of the building. This allows for access to the corners of the building and to accommodate a set up area outside of the potential building collapse zone. Aerial fire apparatus access will comply with all access and turnaround requirements. For unusually shaped buildings without a rectangular or square building footprint, alternate locations of ladder truck access points may be considered by the Fire Marshal, or designee, and analyzed on case-by-case bases.



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2. Aerial fire apparatus access (near edge) will be located a minimum 15 feet away from the building as measured to the edge of the fire access drive. The starting point maximum distance away from the building is 30 feet; however, a greater distance may be permitted depending on the upon the height to the eave or parapet and will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis during plan review.
3. Overhead utility and power lines, large trees, and other obstructions will not be located over the aerial fire apparatus access road or between the aerial fire apparatus road and the building.
4. Buildings designated as high-rise by the California Building Code (CBC) (where the highest occupied floor is located more than 75 feet in height from the grade level of an adjacent fire access road) have no specific aerial ladder truck access requirements.

#### E. Fire Hose and Equipment Walking Access to Building Openings:

1. Required walking access will be designed to prevent sharp turns and obstacles which would hinder the carrying of hoses, ground ladders and other hand-held equipment. The walking path requires an unobstructed 36 inch horizontal clearance and continuous seven foot vertical clearance. All gates across fire hose and equipment access points will be a minimum of four (4) feet clear width. Gates across required walking access paths will be provided with Fire X-1 padlock(s).

### ***OPERATIONAL GUIDELINE***

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### ***PROCESS***

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### ***INFORMATION***

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## ***DEFINITIONS***

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## ***CROSS REFERENCES***

No cross references recognized.