New Westminster

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Emergency Vehicle Access Requirements

REQUIREMENTS FOR STREETS

Every building shall face a street located in conformance with the requirements for access routes in the B.C. Building Code. Access routes required shall be located so that the principal entrance and every required access opening are located not less than 3 m and not more than 15 m from the closest portion of the access route required for fire department use, measured horizontally from the face of the building.

ACCESS ROUTE DESIGN

- Maximum length of access route from hydrant to principal entrance of building –90m (296 ft)
- NWFD requires a clear width not less than 7.3m (24 ft.)
- Have a centre line radius not less than 13 m (42 ft.-6")
- Have an overhead clearance not less than 5 m (16 ft.-4")
- Have a change of gradient not more than 1 in 12.5 over a minimum distance of 15 m
- Be designed to support 39,010 kg (86,000 lbs.) GVW surfaced with concrete, asphalt or other material designed to permit accessibility under all climatic conditions and be maintained snow and ice free and perimeter defined
- Have turnaround facilities for any dead-end portion of the access route more than 90 m long
- Be connected with a public thoroughfare
- Signage - fire truck access lanes to be posted
- Fire lane - no parking and outline marked if required

HYDRANT AND FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION LOCATIONS

- Maximum unobstructed distance from the fire department connection to a hydrant - 45 m (148 ft)
- Maximum unobstructed firefighter path of travel from the vehicle to the building - 45 m (148 ft)

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Ladder deployment obstructions between the fire truck and the building to be considered.
Example:

- Trees
- Telephone poles and lamp standards
- Overhead wires
- Roof overhangs
- Max 70° climbing angle for ladders