



**Yakima County Fire Marshal's Office**  
**Public Information Handout FP-21**  
**Fire Apparatus Access Road**



## **Yakima County Code Chapter 5**

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 (45,720 mm) 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.

503.2.1 Dimensions. Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20' (6,096 mm), except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.6, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches.

503.2.3 Surface. Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of the fire apparatus and shall be surfaced so as to provide all-weather driving capabilities.

503.2.4 Turning radius. The required turning radius of a fire apparatus access road shall be determined by the fire code official.

503.2.5 Dead ends. Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet (45,720 mm) in length shall be provided with an approved area for turning around the fire apparatus.

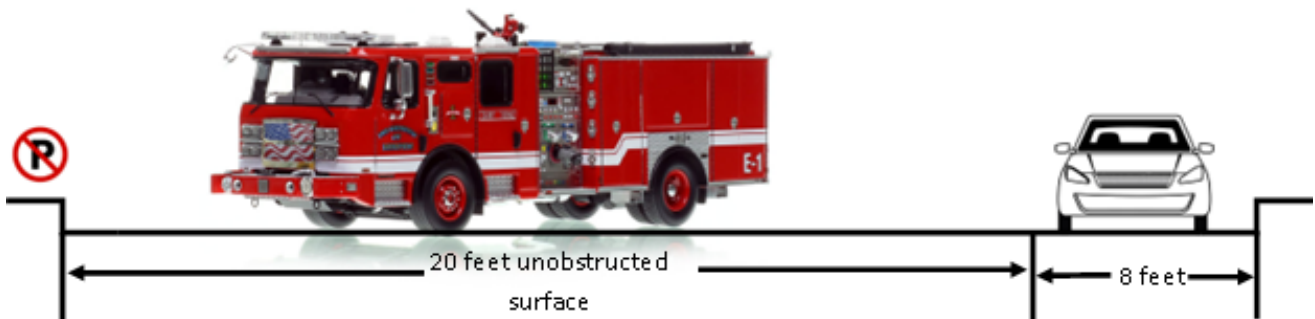
503.4 Obstruction of fire apparatus access roads. Fire apparatus access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking of vehicles. The minimum widths and clearances established in Section 503.2.1 shall be maintained at all times.



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### What is a Fire Apparatus Access Road?

A fire access road is a road, driveway, vehicle parking area, or path designed to provide fire department vehicles (fire apparatus) with unobstructed access to buildings and facilities for emergency response.



### Private Driveways

Driveways are considered fire access roads because they provide access to buildings (homes and outbuildings) for emergency response.



**Maintained Driveways**



**Not Maintained Driveway**

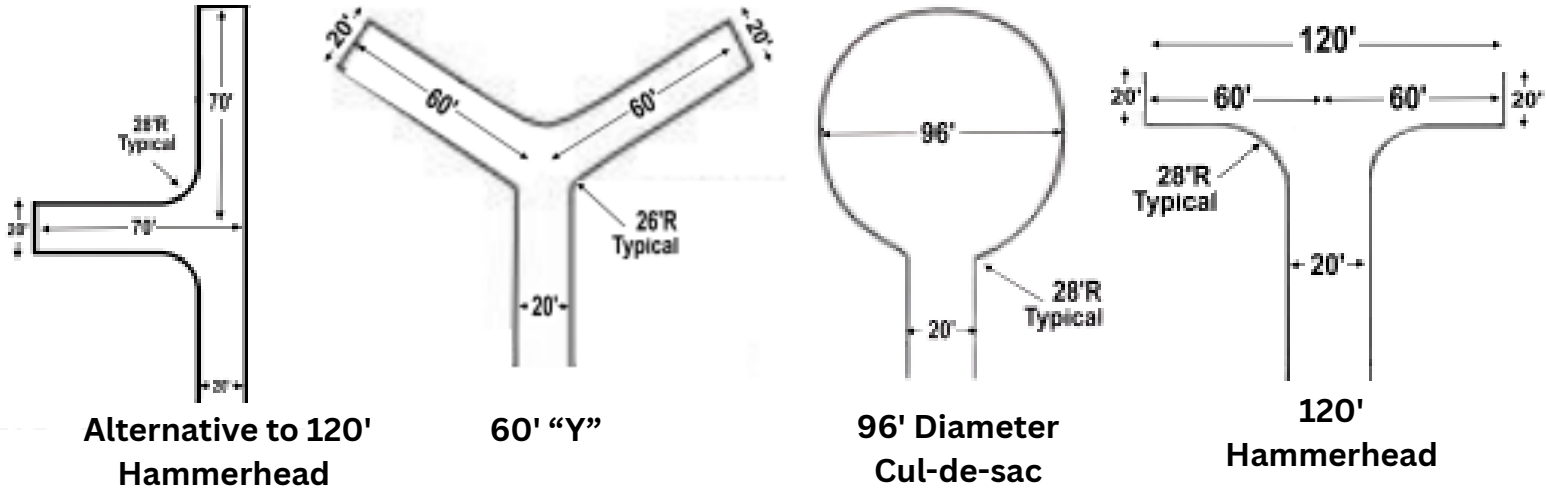
### What you need to know when you are building a driveway

- Driveways are allowed to be less than 20 feet wide. When they exceed 150 feet in length, a turnaround must be provided.
- They must be constructed to support a fire engine (75,000 pounds).
- They must be constructed of an all-weather surface. Examples include crushed rock (gravel), concrete, and asphalt. Driveways must be maintained - potholes must be filled, and a fresh surface should be brought in when the driveway becomes rough.
- When a driveway is less than 20 feet wide and is longer than 200 feet in length, a turnout is required. A turnout provides a limited area for two vehicles to pass. Turnouts shall be spaced at intervals of 300 feet.
- A grade of the driveway is limited to a maximum of 10% (10 feet of elevation increase or decrease for every 100 feet of distance).
  - In certain circumstances, when topography limits the installation of an approved driveway, turnarounds, or turnouts, exceptions may be allowed when a residence is equipped with a residential fire sprinkler system.

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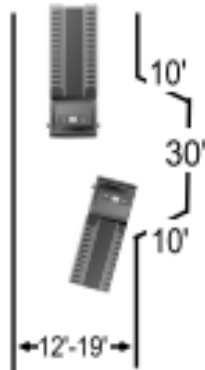
### What is an approved turnaround?

Turnarounds provide a place for vehicles, especially emergency response vehicles to turn around and avoid backing out.



### What is an approved turnout?

Turnouts are placed to allow two vehicles to pass. This is especially important in the event of a fire.



**DEAD END FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS REQUIREMENTS, TABLE D103.4**

Length	Width	TURNAROUND REQUIRED
0-150'	20' MINIMUM WIDTH	NONE REQUIRED
151-500'	20' MINIMUM WIDTH	120' HAMMERHEAD, 60' "Y" OR 96' DIAMETER CUL-DE-SAC IN ACCORDANCE WITH FIGURE D103.1
501-750'	26' MINIMUM WIDTH	120' HAMMERHEAD, 60' "Y" OR 96' DIAMETER CUL-DE-SAC IN ACCORDANCE WITH FIGURE D103.1
OVER 750'	SPECIAL APPROVAL REQUIRED	

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact Yakima County Building and Fire Safety at (509) 574-2300.