

**FIRE LANE ORDINANCE  
ORDINANCE # 00-29**

**SECTION 1**

**Abbreviations and Standards:**

**AASHTO** - American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

**NFPA** - National Fire Protection Association

**HFD** - Hooksett Fire Department

When a standard is referred to herein, it shall be the latest published standard. Regulations adopted by HFD pursuant to this Ordinance shall be distributed to the Town Clerk, Town Planner, Code Enforcement Officer and Town Engineer and shall take effect one week after the required distribution.

**SECTION 2**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to assure reasonable fire safety and to facilitate provision of fire extinguishment and rescue services from premises in the Town of Hooksett. Fire suppression and alarm systems that meet nationally recognized standards are recognized as one of the most effective means to provide fire safety. Accordingly, a degree of flexibility for certain premises with such systems is provided in this Ordinance.

**SECTION 3**

**Restrictions on Parking and Other Obstructions**

It shall be unlawful to park, stop or stand a motor vehicle on or to otherwise obstruct at any time, a designated fire lane or the access path to a Fire Lane, as described below, by any means, including but not limited to, snow, trash, boxes, furniture, debris, etc.. It shall be unlawful to park, stop or stand a motor vehicle on a traveled roadway within fifteen feet of, or in front of, or to otherwise obstruct access to any fire hydrant, by any means including, but not limited to, snow, trash, boxes, furniture, debris, etc.

**SECTION 4**

**General Requirements for Fire Lanes and Access Paths**

Fire Lanes shall be provided for all new premises, with the exception of one and two family dwellings as defined by NFPA and HFD and townhouses that have a two hour separation between units and automatic fire suppression systems as long as they do not exceed twelve (12) units per structure. Such Fire Lanes shall be in accordance with this Ordinance and such additional regulations as may be adopted by the HFD.

Fire Lanes shall include an access path, which connects the Fire Lane to a public highway. Such access path shall meet the same standards as the Fire Lane travel

surface with respect to construction details, geometry and clearance, and maintenance, and is subject to the same restrictions on obstruction.

Fire Lanes and the access to Fire Lanes shall consist of a travel surface a minimum of twenty (20) feet in width, plus an area between the travel surface and the structure to be protected, referred to herein as the "building band".

Access path and Fire Lane travel surfaces shall support an AASHTO H20 loading in all seasons, and shall be surfaced with materials acceptable to the HFD. Access path and Fire Lane travel surfaces shall have a height clearance of at least 13'6". Access path and Fire Lane travel surface geometry, including intersections with highways and turnaround areas, shall be designed and constructed to allow for turning of fire apparatus with adequate clearances for wheels and overhangs.

As a minimum, geometry shall conform to "Minimum Turning Path for SU Design Vehicle" as established by AASHTO, figure II-2 in A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets. Any dead end access path shall be provided with a turn around acceptable to the HFD. Slope of travel surface and access path shall not exceed ten percent (10%) and shall be designed and constructed with adequate smooth transitions to assure that vehicle overhangs do not contact surfaces.

Fire Lanes travel surface and access path shall be marked with signs erected in plain view and not more than 100 feet apart, stating "Fire Lane No Parking" and shall be clearly marked with continuously repeated yellow lettering on the surface with the legend "Fire Lane No Parking". Where surfaces adjacent to an access path or Fire Lane travel surface are not designed to the same standard outlined herein, the limits of the access path or Fire Lane travel surface shall also be physically marked, with curbing, raised markers, or other means to distinguish them from adjacent surfaces which are not designed to support fire apparatus.

## SECTION 5

### Fire Lanes for Premises that have a Complete Monitored Suppression System

Premises that have a complete, monitored suppression system as defined by NFPA and HFD are required to have "two side access" to the building, except that the following shall have "two and a half side" access:

1. Industrial occupancies over 12,000 square feet.
2. Multi family dwellings with more than 12 units.
3. Detention and correctional with occupancy of more than 6.
4. Assembly occupancies over 5,000 square feet, except a house of worship shall only require "two sides" access.

"Two side access" shall consist of Fire Lanes along two sides of the structure, and at least one Fire Lane shall include the primary access to the structure. The Fire Department connection shall be accessed from one of these Fire Lanes.

"Two and a half side" access shall consist of Fire Lanes along two and one half sides of the structure, and at least one Fire Lane shall include the primary access to the

structure. The Fire Department connection shall be accessed from one of these Fire Lanes.

The two descriptions immediately above contemplate rectangular, uniform structures. In the case of non-rectangular structures, or other unusual configurations, the intent as outlined above shall be followed by the HFD in determining the Fire Lane requirements.

A turnaround for fire apparatus shall be provided for any Fire Lane travel surface in excess of one hundred (100) feet. Only one access can end in a turnaround requiring a reversing maneuver, any other turnaround must allow for circular traffic flow, i.e. without any reversing maneuver.

The "building band" shall not be less than ten (10) feet and not more than thirty (30) feet in width. For premises that have a complete, monitored suppression system as defined by NFPA and HFD, the building band may be occupied by parked vehicles and landscaping, and may be reasonably sloped, provided however that building fire equipment and certain windows as selected by the HFD shall not be obstructed.

## SECTION 6

### Fire Lanes for other Premises

Fire Lanes shall access all sides of the building and allow for apparatus to drive completely around the building. The edge of the Fire Lane travel surface shall be ten (10) feet from the building, and the "building band" shall be clear of all obstructions except for minor landscaping which shall not be placed in front of windows or building fire equipment, and shall be maintained at a height of less than four (4) feet. The building band shall be level or sloped not greater than twenty percent (20%).

## SECTION 7

### Maintenance Responsibilities for Fire Lanes and Access Paths

Fire Lane travel surfaces and access paths shall be maintained accessible and usable in all weather conditions in accordance with regulations of the HFD. The owner and any tenant occupant of the premises shall be jointly and severally responsible for maintenance of the Fire Lane travel surfaces and access paths.

## SECTION 8

### Additions to Existing Premises

This Ordinance shall apply in full to existing structures which are expanded, provided however, that the HFD may allow exceptions to any portion of the Ordinance which in its sole discretion cannot reasonably be met due to unique circumstances at the site of such an existing structure. Any such exception, including the reason it was granted, shall be documented by the HFD and such documentation shall be distributed to the Town Clerk, Town Planner, Code Enforcement

Officer and Town Engineer, and shall be maintained with the permanent Building Department file for the structure.

## SECTION 9

### Enforcement and Penalties

Administrative Enforcement of Parking Violations, Ordinance #00-28, shall apply for violations of this Ordinance relating to parking of vehicles. The Police Department shall enforce such violations.

Enforcement of other terms of this Ordinance shall be in accordance with the regulations of the HFD and the State Fire Code enforced by the HFD.

ADOPTED: 06/23/99

AMENDED: 03/22/06