Article 2. Emergency Access and Egress.

1273.01. Road Width

All roads shall be constructed to provide a minimum of two nine-foot traffic lanes providing two-way traffic flow, a minimum driving surface of two ten-foot lanes, not including shoulder and striping. These lanes should provide for two-way traffic flow to support emergency vehicle and civilian egress, unless other standards are provided in this article, or additional requirements are mandated by local jurisdictions or local subdivision requirements.


1273.02. Roadway Surface

The surface shall provide unobstructed access to conventional drive vehicles, including sedans and fire engines. Surfaces should be established in conformance with local ordinances, and be capable of supporting a 40,000 pound load. Roadways shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed load of fire apparatus weighing at least 75,000 pounds and provide an all-weather aggregate road base. Project proponent shall provide engineering specifications to support design, if requested by the local authority having jurisdiction.

1273.05. Roadway Turnarounds

Turnarounds are required on driveways and dead-end roads as specified in this article. The minimum turning radius for a turnaround shall be forty (40) feet from the center line of the road, not including parking. Where the terminus bulb intersects the road, the road shall be no less than thirty eight (38) feet wide and the approach shall be tapered. The aforementioned shall be in accordance with the following figure. The encroachment of the driving surface, from the roadway into and out of the terminus bulb shall not be less than 38'. The driving surface shall be evenly tapered on both sides of the driving surface from the encroachment, 15' back along the roadway. The radius of the taper shall not exceed 40'. If a hammerhead/T is used instead, the top of the “T” shall be a minimum of sixty (60) feet in length.


1273.06. Roadway Turnouts

Turnouts shall be a minimum of twelve (12) feet wide and thirty (30) feet long with a minimum 25 foot taper on each end.


1273.07. Roadway Structures

(a) All driveway, road, street, and private lane roadway structures shall be constructed to carry at least the maximum load and provide the minimum vertical clearance as required by Vehicle Code Sections 35250, 35550, and 35750 and 35250.

(b) Appropriate signing, including but not limited to weight or vertical clearance limitations, one-way road or single lane conditions, shall reflect the capability of each bridge.
(c) Where a bridge or an elevated surface is part of a fire apparatus access road, the bridge shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges, 17th Edition, published 2002 (known as AASHTO HB-17), hereby incorporated by reference. Bridges and elevated surfaces shall be designed for a live load sufficient to carry the imposed loads of fire apparatus. Vehicle load limits shall be posted at both entrances to bridges when required by the local authority having jurisdiction. Where elevated surfaces designed for emergency vehicle use are adjacent to surfaces which are not designed for such use, approved barriers, approved or signs, or both, as approved by the local authority having jurisdiction, shall be installed and maintained. A bridge with only one traffic lane may be authorized by the local jurisdiction; however, it shall provide for unobstructed visibility from one end to the other and turnouts at both ends.


1273.08. One-Way Roads

All one-way roads shall be constructed to provide a minimum, not including shoulders, of one 1012-foot traffic lane. The local jurisdiction may approve one-way roads. All one-way roads shall connect to a two-lane roadway at both ends, and shall provide access to an area currently zoned for no more than ten (10) dwelling units. In no case shall it exceed 2640 feet in length. A turnout shall be placed and constructed at approximately the midpoint of each one-way road.

1273.10. Driveways

All driveways shall provide a minimum driving surface of a ten (10) foot width with a minimum width of fourteen (14) feet unobstructed horizontal clearance and unobstructed vertical clearance of fifteen (15) feet, 40 foot traffic lane and unobstructed vertical clearance of 15 feet along its entire length,

(a) Driveways exceeding 150 feet in length, but less than 800 feet in length, shall provide a turnout near the midpoint of the driveway. Where the driveway exceeds 800 feet, turnouts shall be provided no more than 400 feet apart.

(b) A turnaround shall be provided to all building sites on driveways over 300 feet in length, and shall be within fifty (50) feet of the building.


1273.11. Gate Entrance

(a) Gate entrances shall be at least two (2) feet wider than the width of the traffic lane(s) serving that gate and a minimum width of fourteen (14) feet unobstructed horizontal clearance and unobstructed vertical clearance of fifteen (15) feet.

(b) All gates providing access from a road to a driveway shall be located at least thirty (30) feet from the roadway and shall open to allow a vehicle to stop without obstructing traffic on that road.

(c) Security gates shall not be installed without approval and where security gates are installed, they shall have an approved means of emergency operation. Approval shall be by the local authority having jurisdiction. The security gates and the emergency operation shall be maintained operational at all times.

(d) Where a one-way road with a single traffic lane provides access to a gated entrance, a forty...
(40) foot turning radius shall be used.


1274.01. Size of Letters, Numbers and Symbols for Street and Roads Signs

Size of letters, numbers and symbols for addresses shall be a minimum \( \geq 4 \) inch letter height, \( \geq 3/8 \) inch stroke, reflectorized, contrasting with the background color of the sign.

Numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches (101.6 mm) high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch (12.7 mm). Where access is by means of a private road and the building cannot be viewed from the public way, a monument, pole or other sign or means shall be used to identify the structure.


1274.09. Size of Letters, Numbers and Symbols for Addresses

Size of letters, numbers and symbols for addresses shall be a minimum \( \geq 4 \) inch letter height, \( \geq 3/8 \) inch stroke, reflectorized, contrasting with the background color of the sign.

New and existing buildings shall have approved address numbers, building numbers or approved building identification placed in a position that is Address identification shall be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Addresses numbers shall be Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches (101.6 mm) high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch (12.7 mm). Where access is by means of a private road and the address identification building cannot be viewed from the public way, a monument, pole or other sign or means shall be used to identify the address structure.

1275.00. Intent

Emergency water for wildfire protection shall be available, accessible, and maintained in quantities and locations specified in the statute and these regulations, in order to attack a wildfire or defend property from a wildfire. Such emergency water may be provided in a fire agency mobile water tender, or naturally occurring or man made containment structure, as long as the specified quantity is immediately available.


1275.01. Application

The provisions of this article shall apply in the tentative and parcel map process when new parcels are approved by the local jurisdiction having authority. The emergency water system shall be available on-site prior to the completion of road construction, where a community water system is approved, or prior to the completion of building construction, where an individual system is approved. When a water supply for structure defense is required to be installed, such protection shall be installed and made serviceable prior to and during the time of construction except when approved alternative methods of protection are provided and approved by the local authority having jurisdiction.

1275.10. General Standards

Water systems that comply with the below standard or standards meet(s) or exceed(s) the standards specified in Public Utilities Commission of California (PUC) revised General Order 

#103, Adopted June 12, 1956 (Corrected September 7, 1983, Decision 83-09-001), Section VIII Fire Protection Standards and other applicable sections relating to fire protection water delivery systems, static water systems equaling or exceeding the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) intent of these regulations. Water systems equaling or exceeding the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1221, "Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting", 1989 Edition, or mobile water systems that meet the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rural Class 8, 2nd Edition 3-80, 1142, "Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting," 2012 Edition, hereby incorporated by reference, and California Fire Code 2010, California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 9, Fire-Flow requirements standard shall be accepted as meeting the requirements of this article. These documents are available at CDF Ranger Unit Headquarters. Such emergency water may be provided in a fire agency mobile water tender, or naturally occurring or man made containment structure, as long as the specified quantity is immediately available. Nothing in this article prohibits the combined storage of emergency wildfire and structural firefighting water supplies unless so prohibited by local ordinance or specified by the local fire agency. Where freeze protection is required by local jurisdictions having authority, such protection measures shall be provided.

1275.15. Hydrant/Fire Valve

(a) The hydrant or fire valve shall be eighteen (18) inches above grade, eight (8) feet from flammable vegetation, no closer than four (4) feet nor farther than twelve (12) feet from a roadway, and in a location were fire apparatus using it will not block the roadway.

The hydrant serving any building shall:

(1) be not less than fifty (50) feet nor more than 1/2 mile by road from the building it is to serve, and

(2) be located at a turnout or turnaround, along the driveway to that building or along the road that intersects with that driveway.

(b) The hydrant head shall be brass with 2 1/2 inch National Hose male thread with cap for pressure and gravity flow systems and 4 1/2 inch draft systems. Such hydrants shall be wet or dry barrel as required by the delivery system. They shall have suitable crash protection as required by the local jurisdiction.


1276.00 Intent

To reduce the intensity of a wildfire by reducing the volume and density of flammable vegetation, the strategic siting of fuel modification and greenbelt shall provide

(1) increased safety for emergency fire equipment and evacuating civilians by its utilization around structures and roads, including driveways; and

(2) a point of attack or defense from a wildfire.

1276.03 Greenbelts

Subdivision and other developments, which propose greenbelts as a part of the development plan, shall locate said greenbelts strategically, as a separation between wildland fuels and structures. The locations shall be approved by the local authority having jurisdiction. Selected locations should and may be consistent with the CAL FIRE Unit Fire Management Plan or Contract County Fire Plan.


1276.04 Driveways.

In addition to the fourteen (14) feet unobstructed horizontal clearance required pursuant to 14 CCR § 1273.10, a driveway fuel reduction zone of eight (8) feet or to the property line, whichever comes first, along each side of the driveway shall be treated for fuel reduction. The driveway fuel reduction zone is required from the point at which the driveway intersects the road to the driveway's intersection with the defensible space of the structure. Fuel reduction treatment in the driveway fuel reduction zone shall be implemented in accordance with the requirements for Zone 2 pursuant to 14 CCR §1299.03. The driveway fuel reduction zone shall include turnouts and turnarounds. The purpose of this zone is to support civilian evacuation and fire equipment access.

Driveways shall have minimum of ten feet horizontal fuel reduction, which includes the required clearance in 1273.10, from the traveled surface on both sides of the driveway fuel reduction zone, from the point at which the driveway meets the road to the defensible space of the structure, to support civilian evacuation and fire equipment access. The fuel reduction is such that it reflects CCR title 14, 1299 Defensible Space Zone Two. These shall include turnouts and turnarounds.
