



Scott M. Jalbert, Unit Chief

Standard 4

Access Roads and Driveways

Scope

This standard provides criteria in which access roads and driveways shall be constructed and maintained to guarantee access in emergency situations. Access to residential and commercial parcels shall allow safe, unobstructed passage for emergency equipment and citizen evacuation concurrently during emergency operations. References for this standard are the 2016 California Fire Code, Section 503, Public Resource Codes 4290 /4291 and San Luis Obispo County Land Use Ordinances.

Road Grades

The grade for all roads, streets, private lands and driveways shall not exceed 16 percent. Design criteria shall be in accordance with the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works Public Improvement Standards. Roads 12% - 16% shall be a non-skid asphalt or concrete surface as specified in the County standards, specifications and drawings. All roads shall:

- Be able to support Fire Apparatus
- Provide a vertical clearance of 13 feet 6 inches
- Maintain a 10-foot fuel reduction zone on both sides

Access Road Standards

All road design criteria will meet the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works Public Improvement Standards. Standard construction drawing exhibits can be located on line at:

<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW/DevServ/PublicImprovementStandards.htm>

Commercial

- The access road must be a minimum of 24 feet wide, allowing for two-way traffic. It shall be constructed to County of San Luis Obispo standards, two (2) 10-foot driving lanes and two (2) 2-foot shoulders.
- Parking is only allowed where an additional 8 feet of width is added to each side of the road to accommodate parking. "No Parking – Fire Lane" signs may be required.
- Fire lanes shall be provided as set forth in the 2016 California Fire Code, Chapter 5. <https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/chapter/content/2189/>

- Fire access shall be provided to within 150 feet of the outside building perimeter.

Secondary Access Road

More than one Fire Apparatus access road shall be required when potential for the impairment of a single road by vehicle congestion, condition of terrain, climatic conditions or other factors that could limit access.

Residential – Serving more than one legal parcel

- The road must be named and properly signed according to San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building.
- The access road must be a minimum of 24 feet wide, allowing for two-way traffic. It shall be constructed to County of San Luis Obispo standards, two (2) 10-foot driving lanes and two (2) 2-foot shoulders.
- Parking is only allowed where an additional 8 feet of width is added to each side of the road to accommodate parking. “No Parking – Fire Lane” signs may be required.

Secondary Dwelling

Access road and driveway requirements for an additional dwelling allowed by the County of San Luis Obispo’s Land Use Ordinance must be reviewed by the San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department.

Driveway Standards

Driveway specifications shall be provided and maintained when serving no more than one legal parcel or lot with no more than three (3) dwelling units and any number of accessory buildings.

- Driveway minimum width in Moderate Fire Hazard Severity zones is 10 feet.
- Driveway minimum width in High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity zones:
 - 0-49 feet, 10 feet is required
 - 50-199 feet, 12 feet is required
 - Greater than 200 feet, 16 feet is required
- Turnarounds must be provided if driveway exceeds 300 feet and shall be within 50 feet of the building.
- For driveways exceeding 800 feet, turnouts shall be provided no more than 400 feet apart. Driveways exceeding 150 feet in length but less than 800 feet in length shall provide a turnout near the midpoint of the driveway. The turnout shall be a minimum of 10 feet wide and 30 feet long with a minimum 25-foot taper on each end.

Dead-End Road

A dead-end road has only one point of vehicular ingress/egress, including cul-de-sacs and looped roads.

The maximum length of a dead-end road, including all dead-end roads accessed from that dead-end road, shall not exceed the following cumulative lengths, regardless of the number of parcels served:

- Parcels less than 1 acre 800 feet
- Parcels 1 acre to 4.99 acres 1,320 feet
- Parcels 5 acres to 19.99 acres 2,640 feet
- Parcels 20 acres or larger 5,280 feet

A turnaround must be provided if the dead-end road exceeds 150 feet.

One-Way Roads

All one-way roads shall connect to a two-lane roadway at both ends. It shall provide access to an area currently zoned for no more than ten (10) dwelling units. In no case shall it exceed 2,640 feet in length.

- When allowed, one-way roads serving residential use only shall be constructed to provide a minimum of one (1) 10-foot traffic lane.
- A turnout shall be placed and constructed at approximately the midpoint of each one-way road.

Bridges

Commercial, subdivision and bridges on access roads must meet the standards outlined by Caltrans for bridge designs on public roads. Additional design criteria and information may be obtained from the San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department. They defer to Caltrans standards:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/techpubs/manual/bridgemanuals/bridge-design-specifications/bds.html>

Private bridges must meet the following requirements:

- Be designed by a Registered Civil Engineer
- Engineer must provide written design load and specification to *CAL FIRE* / County Fire
- Bridge weight limit and vertical clearance signs posted at each entrance
- Provide a minimum of 20-ton capacity
- Provide vehicle and pedestrian guard rails on each side
- Provide turnouts on either side of bridge entry
- One lane bridges must be approved by the Fire Department