



Scott M. Jalbert, Unit Chief

## **Standard 6**

### **FIRE LANES**

#### **SCOPE**

This standard provides a method of providing for and maintaining adequate and unobstructed emergency access for fire department apparatus and personnel to buildings, structures, hazardous occupancies or other premises, as may be required by the fire code officials and the 2016 California Fire Code and local adopted amendments.

#### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

To identify the requirements for the posting of fire lanes and the prevention of obstructions to fire hydrants and fire protection equipment. Fire Prevention Bureau personnel will determine the access roads, fire hydrants and fire protection equipment where these requirements apply. Determination will also be made if this applies to one or both sides of access roads. Private roads, driveways and off-street parking facilities shall be posted with fire lane signs in accordance with this Standard, Caltrans Traffic Manual and CVC Section 21400, 22500.1, 22658(a) and 22658.2. When properly posted, violating vehicles may be removed (towed) in accordance with CVC Section 22658 and 22658.2, including any required notifications.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

- CVC: California Vehicle Code
- Fire Lane: The designated portion of an access road that must be kept clear to allow the ingress and egress of emergency vehicles and the public.
- Fire Protection Equipment: Fire hydrants, fire department connections (FDC), standpipe inlets and sprinkler valves.

#### **FIRE LANES**

##### **Enforcement Notification**

- All entrances to properties with designated fire lanes shall be posted with signs as indicated in Figure 1.

**Figure 1**



1. The sign shall be of a durable material, securely mounted, facing the direction of travel and clearly visible to oncoming traffic entering the designated area.

The words "FIRE LANE" shall be white reflective lettering on red background and no smaller than 4 inches in height.

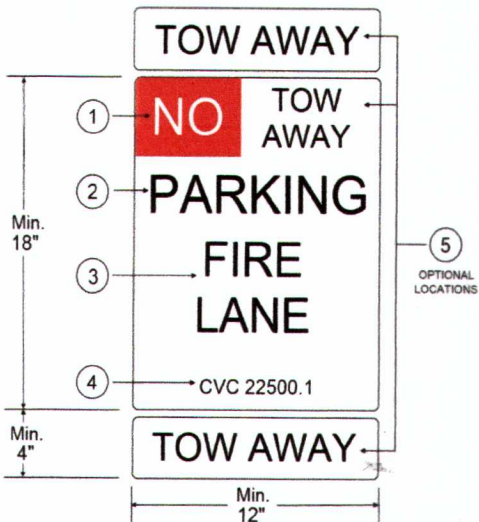
2. Lettering shall be red on white reflective background, no smaller than 2 inches in height.
3. The words "POLICE/SHERIFF" and the name of each towing company under written authorization agreement from the property owner to tow shall be placed on the sign. The respective telephone number for each shall be listed below their name. The applicable California Vehicle Code sections shall be listed. Lettering shall be red on a white reflective background and be no smaller than 1 inch in height.

**Identification**

The length of fire lanes shall be posted with one of the two following methods: (Some situations may not allow a choice). See Figures 2 and 3.

Signs as indicated shall be placed along the length of the fire lane, every 150-175 feet or as required by the Fire Prevention Bureau. Each sectional and/or direction shall have at least one sign. (Figure 2)

**Figure 2**

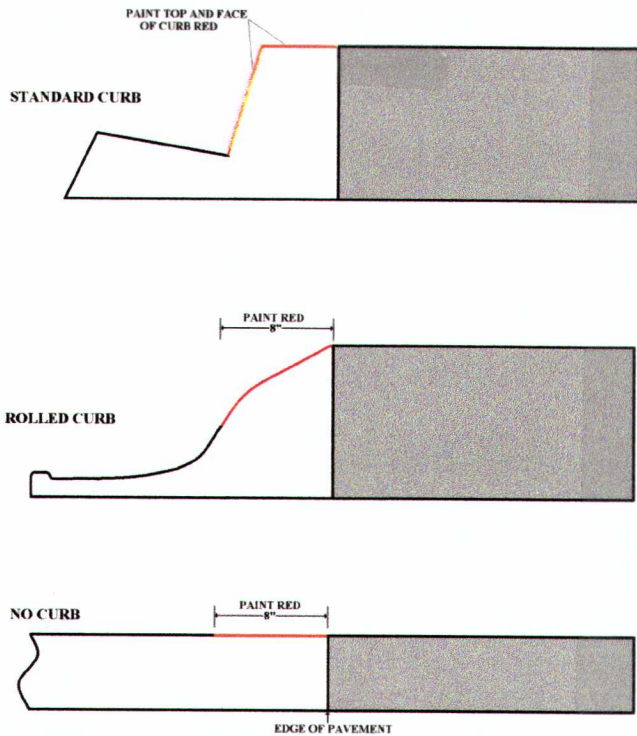


1. The sign shall be of a durable material, securely mounted, facing the direction of travel and clearly visible to oncoming traffic.
2. The word "NO" shall be white reflective on red background and no smaller than 3 ½ inches in height.
3. Lettering shall be red on white reflective background, no smaller than 2 ½ inches in height.
4. Lettering shall be red on white reflective background, no smaller than 1 inch in height.
5. The words "TOW AWAY" shall be in one of the three optional locations. The lettering shall be red on white reflective background, no smaller than 2 ½ inches in height.

All curbing which outlines the fire lanes shall be painted red. White lettering reading "NO PARKING – FIRE LANE – TOW AWAY" shall be a minimum of 4 inches tall and placed every 30 to 50 feet or portion thereof. The lettering shall be placed on top of the curb and at least once on each sectional and/or direction. (Figure 3)

**Figure 3**

"NO PARKING – FIRE LANE – TOW AWAY" Shall be painted on the top of the curb with white 4-inch-high lettering every 30 to 50 feet or portion thereof.



### **FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT**

This equipment shall have red curbing and/or additional red striping a minimum width of 8 inches wide with 4-inch-tall white letters "NO PARKING – FIRE LANE – TOW AWAY". The Fire Prevention Bureau will determine which method will be required, and where.