Handout F.03

Posting, Protection and Clearance of Fire Hydrants, Fire Department Connections and Fire Lanes 2018 International Fire Code

Fire Hydrants – 2018 IFC Sections 507.5.4, 507.5.5, 507.5.6

Obstruction. Unobstructed access to fire hydrants shall be maintained at all times. The fire department shall not be deterred or hindered from gaining immediate access to fire protection equipment or fire hydrants.

Clear space around hydrants. A 3-foot clears space shall be maintained around the circumference of the fire hydrant.

Physical protection. Where fire hydrants are subject to impact by a motor vehicle, guard posts or other approved means shall comply with IFC Section 312.

Parking shall not be allowed within 15 feet of a fire hydrant or with 15 feet of a fire safety sprinkler, standpipe or other fire protections system control valve, whether such valve is mounted on a building or the ground. AMC 9.30.030 A11

Fire Department Connections – 2018 IFC Section 912.4

Access. Immediate access to fire department connections shall be maintained at all times and without obstruction by fences, bushes, trees, walls or any other fixed or moveable object. Access to fire department connections shall be approved by the fire code official.

Exception: Fences, where provided with an access gate equipped with a sign complying with the legend requirements of Section 912.5 and a means of emergency operation. The gate and the means of emergency operation shall be approved by the fire code official and maintained operational at all times.

Locking fire department connection caps. The fire code official is authorized to require locking caps on fire department connections for water-based fire protection systems.

Clear space around connections. A working space of not less than 36 inches in width, 36 inches in depth and 78 inches in height shall be provided and maintained in front of and to the sides of wall-mounted fire department connections and around the circumference of free-standing fire department connections, except as otherwise required or approved by the fire code official.

Physical protection. Where fire department connections are subject to impact by a motor vehicle, vehicle impact protection shall be provided in accordance with Section 312.
Fire Lanes – 2018 IFC Sections 503.3, 503.4

**Marking.** Where required by the *fire code official, approved* signs or other *approved* notices or markings that include the words NO PARKING—FIRE LANE shall be provided for fire apparatus access roads to identify such roads or prohibit the obstruction thereof. The means by which *fire lanes* are designated shall be maintained in a clean and legible condition at all times and be replaced or repaired when necessary to provide adequate visibility.

**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 of not less than 20 feet and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches shall be maintained at all times.

**Traffic calming devices.** Traffic calming devices shall be prohibited unless *approved* by the *fire code official.*

Robert Doehl, Building Official
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(Ref. 96-01, 00-03, 02-01; 02-06, 08-07)