



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	1/22/08	Interpretation	07-128
Topic	Fire Department Access Roads		
Code Section(s)	CCR Title 19		
Requested by	John Hotchkiss Nevada City Fire Department 317 Broad Street Nevada City, CA 95959 (530) 265-2351 (530) 265-8640 Fax John.Hotchkiss@nevadacityfire.org		

The background on this request is we have many substandard city streets that do not meet the current fire department access road minimum standard requirements for width. The questions that have come up are as follows:

1. What is a “Fire Department Access Road”?

The California State Fire Marshal has promulgated regulations covering fire department access roads in the California Code of Regulations Title 19, Section 3.05 (a). Roads, required access roads from every building to a public street shall be all weathered, hard surfaced “suitable for use by fire apparatus” right of way not less than 20’ in width. Such right of ways shall be unobstructed and maintained only as access to the public way.

2. Does a City Street have to meet the minimum width requirements for a “Fire Department Access Road”?

State Fire Marshal does not regulate “City Streets”.

3. How is a “Driveway” different than a “Fire Department Access Road”?

When the “Driveway” is considered a “Fire Department Access Road” by the Authority Having Jurisdiction, it would need to meet the requirements of Title 19 CCR.

4. Is a private property owner responsible for bringing a substandard City Street up to current Fire Department Access Road standards or is the limit of their responsibility only that portion of a road/street on their private property?

No, they are only responsible for that portion of a road or street on their private property.