



# SUTTER COUNTY

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Building Inspection  
Code Enforcement  
Planning

Environmental Health  
Emergency Management  
Fire Services

Engineering  
Road Maintenance  
Water Resources

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS ROADS** **COMMERCIAL OCCUPANCYS**

California Fire Code, Section 503 requires all fire apparatus access roads to be **all-weather hard surfaces right away not less than 20 feet in width and unobstructed**. For new construction, requirements shall be shown on the plot plan and detailed on plans submitted for approval before a building permit is issued. Graded access for emergency vehicles shall be provided at start of construction and the work completed prior to calling for a final inspection.

#### **ACCESS ROAD LENGTH / WIDTH:**

- Width of road: Distance from the structure O to 150 Feet in Length – 20 feet width.
- The Fire code official is authorized to increase the dimension of 150 ft where the following is met:
  - The building is equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system.
  - The fire apparatus roads cannot be installed because of location, topography, waterways, nonnegotiable grades or other similar conditions, and an alternative means of protection is provided.
  - There are no more than two R-3 or U occupancies on the property

*NOTE:* Access road length is measured from edge of primary thru road to furthest corner of an existing or proposed structure. Driveway connections to a County maintained road require an Encroachment Permit and inspection by the Public Works Department.

#### **TURNAROUNDS:**

- A Hammerhead-T, Circle drive, or Loop turnaround is required within 150 feet of all portions of the structure but no closer than 150 feet.
- Driveways between 300 feet and 900 feet in length require a turnout near the midpoint of the driveway.
- Over 900 feet turnouts shall be provided every 400 ft.

#### **DRIVEWAY CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS:**

- Entire driveway including turnouts and turnarounds surfaces to provide a minimum 6 inches of class 2 aggregate compacted to 95%.
- Paved surfaces if required shall be: 2 ½ inches of Asphalt or 4 inches of concrete over base.
- Maximum grade 10%. (Steeper grades require approval from the Sutter County Fire Chief).
- Turns require a minimum 25 ft. radius (R=25')
- Curves require a minimum 50 ft. radius (R=50').
- Overhead vertical clearance – Minimum 13 Ft. 6 inches.

#### **GATES:**

- Opening must be a minimum 16 Ft.wide.
- Gates shall be set back from the edge of the through road a minimum of 30 ft.