



**Fort Bend County
Fire Marshal's Office**

CIVIL CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

This guide is intended as a resource for the civil construction drawings submittal requirements for commercial developments. Civil construction plans are reviewed to determine compliance with Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office requirements as they relate to site construction, layout, building size, fire lanes, fire department access, fire hydrants, and other issues as designated. These requirements can be found in the 2012 International Fire Code, as adopted and amended by Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office. In an effort to expedite the civil plan review process, please ensure the following list of items are incorporated into the proposed civil construction plans.

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. Site Plan and Plat in the civil construction drawing set matches the Site Plan and Plat approved by County Engineering Department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS

2. Fire lane construction shall be in accordance with the Fire Departments *Fire Lane Guidelines* and the Engineering Departments, and construction detail information shall be indicated on the submittal drawings.
3. A minimum of two (2) points of emergency vehicle access shall be provided.
4. Approved, unobstructed fire department access (fire lanes) shall be provided such that all portions of the exterior of the building shall be within 150 feet, as the hose lays, of a fire lane and/or public street.
5. Additional fire lanes may be required based upon the layout of the site and size of the building(s) with regards to Fire Department access, mutual/cross access, special hazards or as designated by the Fire Marshal.
6. Fire lanes must be shaded, or otherwise, clearly marked on the plans.
7. Fire lanes must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Fire lanes with a width of 24 feet; require a turning radius of 30 feet, or
 - b. Fire lanes with a width of 30 feet, require a turning radius of 20 feet; or
 - c. Fire lanes with a width of 26 feet, require a turning radius of 30 feet.
 - d. Minimum clear vertical height clearance of 14 feet;
 - e. Provide an all-weather driving surface;
 - f. Support a minimum of a 85,000 fire apparatus;
 - g. Maximum 6 percent in grade change along the fire lane.
 - h. Maximum 5 percent cross slope, angle or departure, and angle of approach.
 - i. Maximum 6 percent net grade change for hills and valleys.
 - j. Aerial Apparatus Access Roads. Buildings or portions of buildings exceeding 30 ft. in height above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access shall be provided with a 26 ft. wide fire lane. The fire lane shall be a minimum of 15 ft to a maximum of 30 ft. from the building and shall be positioned parallel to one entire side of the building.
8. Fire lane construction detail drawings, including temporary emergency access easements.
9. Emergency access easements shall be approved by the Fire Department under a separate instrument.
10. Dead end fire lanes in excess of 150 feet shall be provided with an approved turnaround.

11. Size, type and location of turnarounds are required to be approved by the Fire Department.
12. A 10 feet wide clear, level unobstructed pathway round the exterior of the building shall be provided for fire department access. This is to include AC units, shrubs, trees, gates, or other construction or utilities.

FIRE HYDRANTS AND WATER LINES

13. See *Fire Hydrant Guidelines* for additional information regarding location and spacing.
14. Existing and proposed fire hydrants shall be indicated on the plans.
15. Location of valves.
16. Fire hydrant type and construction detail. Fire hydrants shall have (2) 2-½" connections and (1) 4" steamer connection.
17. Type and size of underground water lines serving the fire hydrants, and other utility services.
18. Size and location of the underground water line, Fire Service, for the fire sprinkler system.
19. Location of Backflow prevention.
20. A minimum of two (2) fire hydrants are required to serving each property and shall be located on-site. Credit for adjacent fire hydrants may be provided based upon specific site conditions.
21. A minimum required fire flow of 1,500 gpm is required. (IFC Appendix B, Section B105)
22. Fire hydrants shall be so spaced such that all portions of the exterior of the building are within the following distances as the hose lays:
 - a. 400 feet for non-sprinkle properties.
 - b. 600 feet for sprinkler properties.
 - c. Spacing may be increased/decreased due to occupancy type, construction type and fire flow.
23. Spacing between fire hydrants shall not exceed a maximum of 500 feet. Spacing may be required to be reduced to 200 ft. based upon the required fire flow and site conditions.
24. Proposed location of the Fire Department Connection (FDC). Note that the FDC is required to be along and front the fire lane and be within 50 ft., as the hose lays, of a fire hydrant.
25. A minimum of a 10 foot wide pathway shall be provided from the fire hydrant to the FDC. Parking, landscaping, screening and loading spaces are considered an obstruction.
26. Indicate the following notation on the Utility Plan for the Fire Service.
Fire Sprinkler Underground Water Lines Specifications.
All underground piping shall be a minimum of Class 200 / DR 14 or better. Embedment shall be No. 4 crushed stone. Depth of Bury - minimum is 48 inches from grade to the top of the pipe. All underground lines begin at the point of connection to the circulating public/private water main and terminate at the top of the spigot piece 1 ft. above the finished floor and no more than 5 ft. inside the building.

BUILDING SIZE, HEIGHT AND LOCATION REQUIREMENTS

27. Minimum 10 feet clear width around the exterior of the building.
28. Building or facility size, in square feet, to be indicated on the site plan.
29. Building height to be indicated on the site plan.
30. Will the building(s) require automatic fire sprinklers? (Required for all buildings exceeding 12'000 ft², 5000 ft² or 100 occupant load for A2 Occupancies, and for all R, I & H Occupancies regardless of size.

VERTICAL CONSTRUCTION

31. Fire hydrants and fire lane access roadways shall be installed and maintained PRIOR TO VERTICAL CONSTRUCTION of any building or structure.