MECKLENBURG COUNTY
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

SPECIFICATION FOR MARKING OF FIRE LANES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

The purpose of these specifications is to establish general criteria for the marking of designated fire lanes when required by the Mecklenburg County Fire Marshal’s Office. Due to various conditions encountered, such as length or width of roadway, limited space adjacent to roadway, etc., no specific criteria can be set. Any variance from the pavement marking and signage specifications of the following pages shall require prior approval of the Fire Marshal’s Office.

The Fire Marshal shall require property owners to provide fire lanes on private property as the result of:

- A request by property owners, or others, to the Fire Marshal’s Office for consideration of fire lanes.
- A request by a County Fire Department Chief where they deem a fire lane is necessary.
- A request by The County Fire Plans Examiner, who during the plans reviews process for a new property, deems a fire lane is necessary.
- An inspection conducted by a Mecklenburg County Fire Marshal who deems a fire lane is necessary.

Citations issued to violator for parking in designated fire lanes may be issued by a Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Officer or a Police Officer of the Towns of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill, Pineville, and the portions of the Town of Stallings located within Mecklenburg County. The penalty fee schedules are determined by the Towns for each occurrence; in extreme cases, the law gives officers with the Police Departments the authority to tow vehicles unlawfully pared in fire lanes.

Fire Marshals may also issue a citation for failure to maintain a fire lane. However, this citation would not be issued to the violator, instead would be issued to the business, with a maximum fine of $200.00.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR FIRE LANE SIGNS

Fire lane signs including shape, color, dimensions, and legends, mounting height and distance from curb are detailed in Figure 1.

- All signs shall be made of retroreflective sheeting and conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices published by the Federal Highway Administration.
- Signs shall be installed on the side of direction of travel and shall face the traffic they are intended to serve.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR PAVEMENT MARKING

Specifications for fire lane markings including lane widths; word markings and spacing are detailed in Figure 2.

- All lane and word markings shall be white in color and installed using retroreflective highway marking material.
- Word markings and letters shall conform to the Standard Alphabets for Highway Signs and Pavement Markings published by the Federal Highway Administration.

Maintenance of fire lane markings and signs shall be the responsibility of the property owner. All markings and signs shall be maintained, be legible, and shall be replaced without delay as necessary. Removal of fire lane signs or markings shall require prior approval of the Mecklenburg County Fire Marshal’s Office.
Figure 1

Red and White Legend

Face of Curb

7’ Minimum
Figure 2

4” – 6” Lane Markings

Direction of Travel