Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

Community Risk Reduction Division **www.metrofire.ca.gov**

10545 Armstrong Ave., Suite 310 • Mather, CA 95655 • Phone (916) 859-4330 • Fax (916) 859-3717

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT					
FIRE PREVENTION STANDARD					
STANDARD TITLE:	**Fire Apparatus Access Roads**				
STANDARD NUMBER:	3	EFFECTIVE DATE:	09/07/03	REVISION DATE:	10/22/26

SCOPE

This standard is for the requirement, construction and identification of Fire Apparatus Access Roads and is pursuant to the 2025 California Fire Code and Local Ordinance.

DEFINITION

All-weather driving surface – A roadway with a minimum surface finish of one layer of asphalt or concrete that is designated to carry the imposed weight loads of fire apparatus.

SPECIFICATIONS

Fire lane determination is the sole responsibility of the Fire District. Developers shall be responsible for the construction and identification of all new fire apparatus access roads in accordance with this policy. Owners and managers shall be responsible for the maintenance of fire apparatus access roads and their respective signs. Property owners shall not designate and identify any roadway on their property as a fire lane without prior fire district approval.

1. Fire apparatus roads shall be constructed and maintained as an approved all-weather surface.
    a. *Exception:* R-3 lots zoned Agricultural or Agricultural-Residential may use compacted native soil or aggregate rock able to support the imposed weight loads of fire apparatus.

    b. Grasscrete or similar pavement systems featuring voids filled with gravel, soil or grass is not permitted.

    c. Permeable interlocking pavers with minimal joints are permitted as a finished surface, provided an approved temporary, concrete or asphalt all-weather surface is installed throughout construction.

2. Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13-foot 6 inch. (CFC 503.2.1)

   Exception:

   a. Fire apparatus access roads serving one or two single family dwellings may be reduced to 16 feet in width. (CFC 503.2.2)

   b. Split fire apparatus roadway with dividers shall not exceed 150-feet in length.

3. Fire apparatus access roads width shall be measured from the flow line to flow line of roadways that have curbs. When roadways do not have curbs, measurements shall be from the edge of the all-weather surface of the roadway, excluding the header or edge boards.

4. Turns in fire apparatus access roads shall have a minimum turning radius of 50 feet outside and 25 feet inside. Required turn radius may increase for fire lanes provided for aerial operations. (CFC 503.2.4)

5. Fire apparatus access roads shall not exceed 10% in grade (CFC 503.2.7)

6. Fire apparatus access roads shall have an approach and/or departure angle not to exceed 8 degrees. (CFC 503.2.8)

7. Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed live load of 80,000 pounds, with a maximum axle load of 31,000 pounds, and meet Public Works Standards for roadways. A report, prepared by a registered geotechnical or civil engineer, verifying the ability of the road to bear the required minimum weight, shall be submitted with any plan indicating construction of roadway. Verification of constructed roadway shall be provided by a registered geotechnical engineer prior to final of the project. (CFC 503.2.3)

8. A minimum of 2 remote fire apparatus access roads shall be provided for: (CFC 503.1.2.)

   a. Single buildings in excess of 62,000 square feet.

   b. Multiple buildings within a single parcel where the total combined square footage is in excess of 62,000 square feet.

   c. Developments of one and two-family dwellings in excess of 39 dwelling units.

   d. Multi-family dwellings in excess of 39 units.

9. Where 2 fire apparatus access roads are required, they shall be placed a distance apart equal to not less than one-half of the length of the maximum overall diagonal dimension of the property or area to be served, measured in a straight line between accesses. (CFC 503.1.2.)

10. Fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150' in length shall have an approved fire equipment turn-around within 150' of any dead end. The shape and dimensions of this required turn around shall be at a minimum those shown in Figure 1: A, C, D, and E for commercial properties and subdivisions. Figure 1: B is only for private roads with a maximum of four dwelling lots. (CFC 503.2.5)

11. Fire apparatus access roads for aerial fire apparatus shall be provided for all buildings exceeding 30 feet in height. Aerial apparatus access roads shall be provided on at least 2 intersecting building sides. Overhead utility and power lines shall not be located over aerial apparatus access roads or between the access road and the building. Covered obstructions between the aerial apparatus access fire lane and the building shall not be permitted. This includes, but is not limited to; carports, covered trash enclosures, shade structures, and PV parking structures. Any gate, fence or wall within this area shall not exceed 6' in height. The unobstructed width of aerial apparatus roads shall not be less than 26 feet. Aerial apparatus access roads shall be located in relation to buildings as follows: (CFC 503.1.1)
    a. Buildings up to 40-ft in height, located a minimum of 14-feet from building
    b. Buildings 41 to 50-ft in height, located a minimum of 20-feet from building
    c. Buildings 51 to 60-ft in height, located a minimum of 27-feet from building
    d. Buildings 61-ft in height and greater, located at 33-feet from building
    e. At no point shall aerial apparatus access roads be located more than 33-ft from the building.

    For the purposes of this section, building height shall be determined by the measurement to the eave of a pitched roof, the intersection of the roof to the exterior wall, or the top of parapet walls, whichever is greater. See Figure 2.

12. Private roads, utilized as fire access by more than one owner, shall have a road maintenance and fire access agreement notarized and recorded with the County accessors' office. Fillable pdf is available through this link: SMFD Road Maintenance and Fire Access Agreement
    a) The road maintenance and fire access agreement may be signed by one or more parties. If signed by only one party, all other parties are still subject to the provisions of the CA Fire Code Chapter 5 and Civil Code Section 845.

PARKING

ACCESS ROADWAY WIDTH:	PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON ROADSIDE:
Less Than 28	No parking either side
28’ to 35’	Parallel parking one side only
Over 35’	Parking allowed both sides

IDENTIFICATION OF FIRE LANES

All fire apparatus access roads shall be identified in accordance with Section 22500.1 of the California Vehicle Code. (CFC 503.3)

Vehicles parked in fire lanes are subject to citation and/or towing.

GATES

The installation of perimeter fencing, gates, or barriers that obstruct fire apparatus access roads shall require a separate plan submittal, review, and approval by the Fire District prior to installation.

Exception:

Private driveways on minor roads as determined by the Sacramento County, Department of Transportation or the appropriate public works agency having jurisdiction, serving one single-family residence may be exempt from the scope of The County Emergency Access Gates and Barriers Standard.

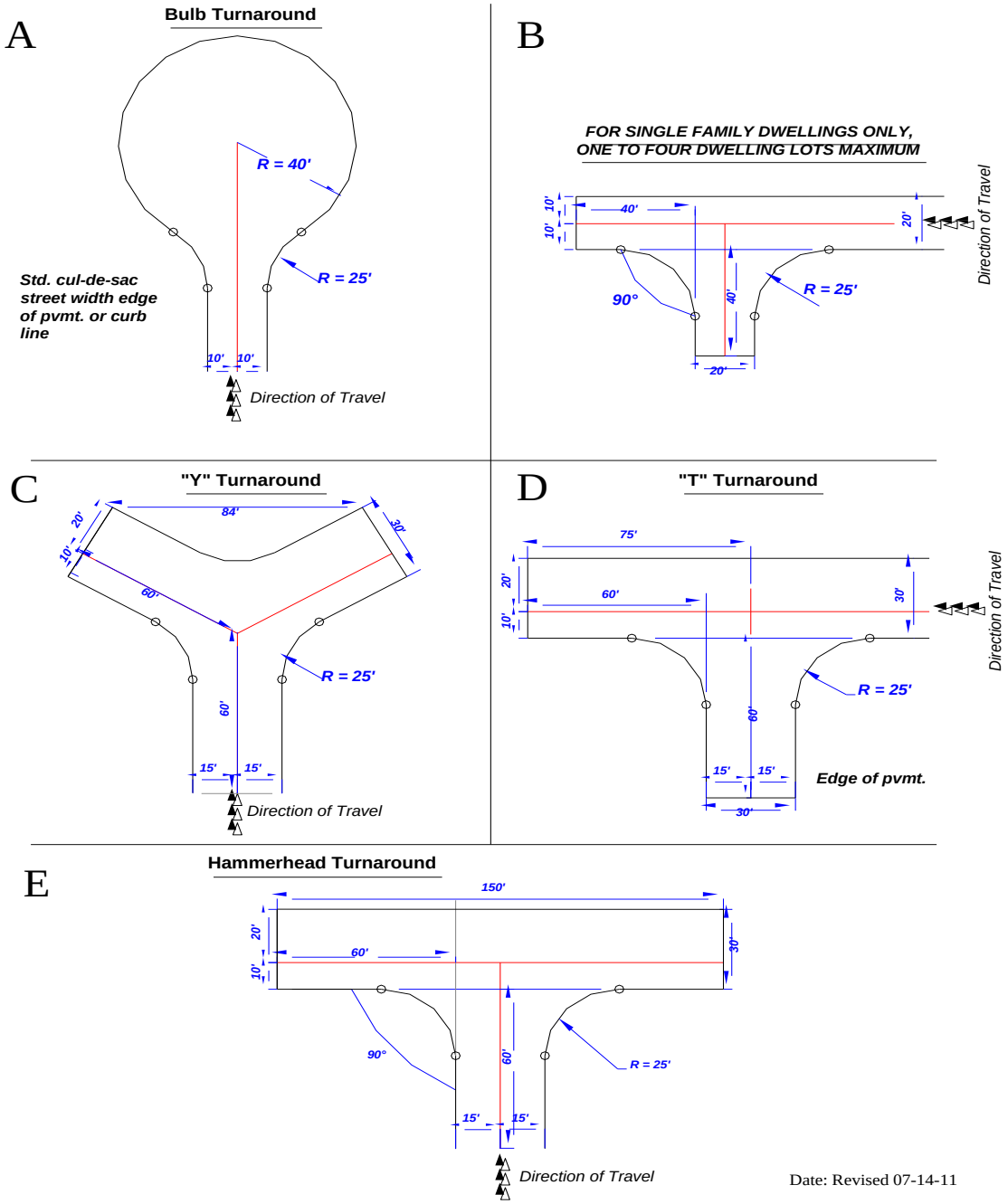
TURNOUTS FOR DRIVEWAYS IN FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

See Figure 3.

FIGURE 1

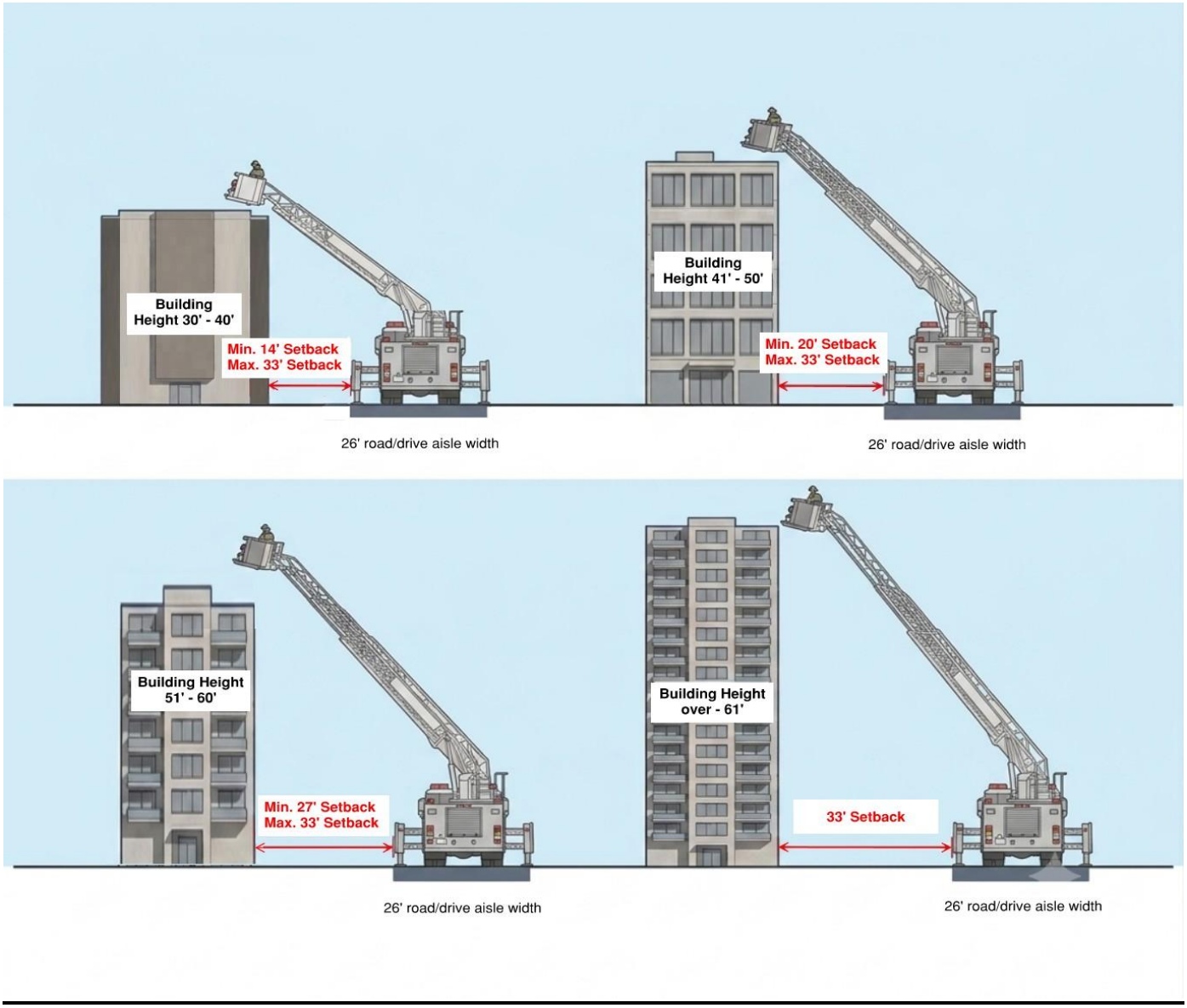
MINIMUM TURNAROUND STANDARDS

Private Property Only



Date: Revised 07-14-11

FIGURE 2 AERIAL APPARATUS ACCESS



NOTES:

1. In determining building height, measurement to be made to the eave of a pitched roof, the intersection of the roof to the exterior wall, or the top of parapet walls, whichever is greater
2. Covered obstructions between the aerial apparatus access fire lane and the building shall not be permitted. This includes, but is not limited to; carports, covered trash enclosures, shade structures, and PV parking structures. Any gate, fence or wall within this area shall not exceed 6’ in height.

FIGURE 3 TURNOUTS FOR DRIVEWAYS IN FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

