

Fire Department Connection



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POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Roadways less than 28 feet in width do not allow parking along the roadway.
- Roadways at least 28 feet in width allow parking along one side at a minimum.
- Roadways at least 34 feet in width allow parking along either side of the roadway.

Let us know how we are doing.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WYGBNYZ>



For Information
Contact:

Fire Code Services

719-358-5978



Fire Lanes Part 2/3 - Fire Lane Widths and On-Street Parking

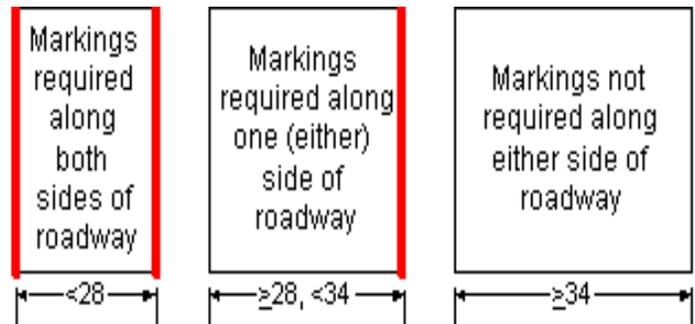
Learning Objective: The student shall be able to identify how the required fire lane width impacts on-street parking.

Part 1 of this series defined the minimum width of 20 feet for fire lanes. Part 2 of the series will explain how this dimension impacts the available parking along a street.

In most instances, roadway widths that allow parallel parking along both sides of the roadway are at least 34 feet in width. Roadway widths that allow parallel parking along one side of the roadway are at least 28 feet in width. The required fire lane width of 20 feet plays a role in these roadway dimensions.

When parking is limited to one side of a roadway, research shows that vehicles tend to park within 8 feet of the curb from street side of vehicle. So a 28 foot wide roadway has 8 feet of that width as on-street parallel parking. The remainder width (20 feet) is provided as the fire lane. Even though the 28 foot roadway allows two-way traffic, fire apparatus during emergencies have the ability to utilize the full 20 feet if needed for response.

So if a roadway must be at least 28 feet wide to allow parking along one side, any roadway with narrower widths does allow parking along the roadway. There are exceptions to this that will be



discussed in Part 3 of this series.

Why then does a 34 foot wide or greater roadway allow parallel parking along both sides of the roadway? Utilizing the same parking research for one-side parking, one could deduce that the roadway must be at least 36 feet (8 foot parking, 20 foot fire lane, 8 foot parking = 36 feet) to allow parking along both sides. Curiously, research also shows that vehicles tend to park closer to curb when the street allows parking along both sides. Vehicles typically park within 7 feet of the curb from street side of vehicle. Therefore 14 feet total is taken up by parking which then leaves 20 feet left for the fire lane. As with parallel parking along one side of the roadway having exceptions, so does parallel parking along both sides of the roadway. Again, these

Graphical representation of roadway widths and allowed parking.

exceptions will be discussed in Part 3.

Therefore, generally speaking as there are exceptions, any roadway less than 28 feet in width will not allow parking along either side; any roadway at least 28 feet in width or greater will allow parking along a single side and any roadway at least 34 feet in width or greater will allow parking along both sides of the roadway.

Regardless of whether the roadway allows parking along no or just one side, the roadway must be marked as "No Parking" or "No Parking - Fire Lane."

Part 3 of the series will discuss the differences in fire lanes when found in different land-use zones throughout the city.