



CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo County Fire Department

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Robert Lewin, Fire Chief

• STANDARD 4 • ACCESS ROADS AND DRIVEWAYS

SCOPE:

The purpose for access to residential and commercial parcels is to allow emergency evacuation for occupants and for emergency vehicles to safely approach a building/parcel as closely as practical in order to deploy hoses, ladders and other equipment necessary for fire control and rescue operations. (CFC 503, LUO, PRC 4290/4291)

DEFINITIONS:

- **PRIVATE ACCESS ROAD(S):** Must be constructed to CAL FIRE/San Luis Obispo County Fire and San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works Standards when serving more than one parcel; when providing access to any industrial or commercial occupancy, or vehicular access to a single parcel with more than two buildings or four or more dwelling units. (PRC 4290/4291)
- **CFC:** California Fire Code current edition
- **PRC:** Public Resources Code
- **LUO:** Land Use Ordinance of San Luis Obispo County

ACCESS ROAD STANDARDS

All road design criteria will meet the San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works Public Improvement Standards. Standard construction drawing exhibits can be located on line at:

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RESIDENTIAL

- The road must be named and properly signed according to San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building.
- The access road must be a minimum of 24 feet in width for two way traffic and shall be constructed to SLO County Public Works Standards. (2) 10- foot driving lanes and (2) - 2 foot shoulders.
- The access road must be a minimum of 10 feet in width for one way traffic (only allowed in limited circumstances).
- Parking is only allowed where an additional 8 feet of width is added to each side of the road that will require parking.
- "No Parking - Fire Lane" signs may be required. Sign design & locations shall be approved by the fire department prior to installation.
- Access road must be able to maintain a 95% compaction.
- All roads must have an all-weather surface.

- If the road is 12% to 16% grade, it must have a non-skid paved surface.
- Driveways may not exceed 16% grade without Fire Department approval. They must be designed by a Registered Civil Engineer, must be a non-skid paved surface, and may require mitigations.
- A vertical clearance of 13'6" is required.
- All roads must be able to support a minimum 20 ton live load.
- Access roads shall also provide a 10 foot fuel modification zone on both sides. (See Exhibit 14)

COMMERCIAL:

- A commercial access road must be 24 feet wide for two way traffic. "No Parking - Fire Lane" signs may be required.
- A commercial access road must be 16 feet wide for one way traffic (only allowed in limited circumstances).
- Parking is only allowed where an additional 8 feet of width is added to each side of the road to accommodate parking.
- Fire lanes shall be provided as set forth in Chapter 5 of the 2010 California Fire Code.
- Fire access shall be provided to within 150 feet of the outside building perimeter.
- All commercial roads must have an all weather non-skid surface. Paving may be required in site specific circumstances.
- All roads must be able to support a 20 ton fire engine.
- A vertical clearance of 13'6" is required. (See Exhibit 14)

SECONDARY DWELLING:

Access road and driveway requirements for an additional dwelling allowed by section 22.10.130 of the LUO must be reviewed by the San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department.

DRIVEWAY STANDARDS:

A driveway is permitted when it serves no more than one parcel, no more than 3 dwelling units on a single legal parcel, and any number of accessory buildings.

- Driveway minimum width for moderate fire severity zones is 10 feet.
- Driveway minimum width for high and very high fire severity zones:
 - 0-49 feet, 10 feet is required.
 - 50-199 feet, 12 feet is required.
 - Greater than 200 feet, 16 feet is required.
- Driveways must be able to maintain a 95% compaction at all times.
- All driveways must provide an all weather surface.
- If the driveway has a 12%-16% grade, it must have a non-skid paved surface.
- Driveways may not exceed 16% grade without Fire Department approval. They must be designed by a Registered Civil Engineer, must be a non-skid paved surface, and may require mitigations.
- If the driveway exceeds 150 feet, a turnaround is required within 50 feet of building.
- If the driveway is less than 16' wide and exceeds 800 feet in length, turnouts are required at the mid point or every 400 feet.
- A vertical clearance of 13'6" is required. (See Exhibit 6).
- All driveways must be able to support a 20 ton fire engine.
- Driveways shall also provide for a 10 foot fuel modification zone on both sides. (See Exhibit 6).

DEAD-END ROAD:

A dead-end road has only one point of vehicular ingress/egress, including cul-de-sacs and looped roads.

- The maximum length of a dead end road, including all dead-end roads accessed from that dead-end road, shall not exceed the following cumulative lengths, regardless of the number of parcels served:
 - Parcels less than 1 acre 800 feet
 - Parcels 1 acre to 4.99 acres 1320 feet
 - Parcels 5 acres to 19.99 acres 2640 feet
 - Parcels 20 acres or larger 5280 feet
- A turnaround must be provided if the dead end road exceeds 150 feet.
- Access road shall also provide for a 10 foot fuel modification zone on each side. (See Exhibit 14).

ONE-WAY ROADS:

- When allowed, one-way roads serving residential use only shall be constructed to provide a minimum of one 10-foot traffic lane.
- All one-way roads shall connect to a two-lane roadway at both ends, and shall provide access to an area currently zoned for no more than 10 dwelling units. In no case shall it exceed 2,640 feet in length.
- A turnout shall be placed and constructed at approximately the midpoint of each one-way road.

BRIDGES:

Commercial, subdivision and bridges on access roads must meet the standards outlined by Caltrans for bridge designs on public roads. Additional design criteria and information may be obtained from San Luis Obispo County Public Works. San Luis Obispo County Public Works defers to Cal Trans standards.

Caltrans link is:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/techpubs/manual/bridgemanuals/bridge-design-specifications/bds.html>

Private bridges must meet the following requirements:

- Be designed by a Registered Civil Engineer.
- Engineer must provide written design load and specifications to CAL FIRE/County Fire.
- Bridge weight limit and vertical clearance signs posted at each entrance.
- Provide a minimum of 20 ton capacity.
- Provide vehicle & pedestrian guard rails on each side.
- Provide turnouts on either side of bridge entry may be required.
- One lane bridges must be approved by the fire department.