



Monterey Park Fire Department

Guidelines for Fire Department Access

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide the minimum standards that apply when designating Fire Department access and fire lanes on private streets or drives in the City of Monterey Park. California Fire Code, Section 503, provide the authority for the Fire Department to require that adequate access is provided and maintained.

SCOPE

Fire Department access and/or fire lanes shall be identified on the approved site plan for new developments or on the approved building plans for tenant improvements or residential projects. The Fire Chief or Fire Marshal may determine the need for additional requirements, or may approve alternate methods of compliance with these standards.

GUIDELINES

Fire apparatus access roads are required for every building when any portion of an exterior wall of the first story is located more than 150 feet from fire access as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building.

More than one road may be required when it is determined that access by a single road may be impaired by vehicle congestion, conditions of terrain, weather conditions which could result in dangerous situations or other factors that could limit access.

Access road width shall be 20 feet minimum where no hydrant is provided and 26 feet minimum when a hydrant is provided. Access roads shall have an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches.

Fire access roadways shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to support the imposed loads of MPFD fire apparatus with a total weight of 80,000 pounds. Apparatus weight is distributed as 54,000 pounds on tandem rear axles and 21,500 pounds on the front axle. The surface shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to provide all-weather driving capabilities. A letter or statement, wet-stamped and signed by a registered engineer, shall be provided on the plans certifying that any new roadway meets this 80,000 pound, all-weather requirement. Road base without an appropriate topping or binding material does not satisfy the all-weather requirement

Fire apparatus access roads shall not exceed 10% in grade.

Designation of Fire Lanes

Pre-construction plans for proposed residential or commercial developments shall be reviewed by the Monterey Park Fire Department Prevention Bureau prior to commencement of construction. After this review, all required fire lanes shall be identified and designated. Upon completion of construction, a field inspection shall be conducted by the Fire Prevention Bureau personnel to verify compliance with these guidelines.

Premises Identification

The numbers shall be a *minimum* of 4 inches or more in height for single-family residential structures/duplexes, or individual unit numbers in multi-family residential structures and 6 inches or more for commercial structures or the primary building address or address range posted on multi-family residential structures. The numbers shall have a one-inch stroke or as required by local ordinance, whichever is more restrictive. Building setbacks, elevation, and landscaping can affect these minimum size requirements.

Multi-Unit Buildings - Suite/apartment numbers shall be placed on or adjacent to the primary entrance for each suite/apartment and any other door providing access to fire department personnel during an emergency. Multiple residential and commercial units having entrance doors not visible from the street or road shall, in addition, have approved numbers grouped for all units within each structure and positioned to be plainly visible from the street or road.

Multi-Building Clusters - Approved numbers or addresses shall be placed on the front elevation(s) of all buildings that form the cluster. If all building addresses are not clearly visible or legible from the public road serving the structures, an address monument shall also be provided at the entry point(s) to the site indicating the range of addresses accessible from that entrance.

Obstructions to Emergency Vehicle Access

Manually Operated Gate and Barrier Design - Typical gate designs may include sliding gates, swinging gates or arms, or guard posts with a chain traversing the opening.

- 1) Permanent or removable bollards are not permitted to be placed across fire access roadways. CFC 503.4
- 2) For gates and barriers that are not used on a frequent basis or those that are located such that they have a reasonable likelihood of being blocked by vehicles, vegetation, furniture, or other obstructions (e.g., secondary fire department vehicle ingress/egress points, gates accessed from plazas or turf block areas), permanent signage constructed of 18-gauge steel or equivalent shall be attached on each face of the gate or barrier that reads "FIRE LANE—NO PARKING." See Attachment 16 for an example of a barrier sign.

3) Manually operated gates and barriers shall have frangible padlocks, Knox padlocks, or weather-resistant Knox key boxes. The key box shall be placed four to five feet above the roadway surface at the right side of the access gate in a conspicuous location that is readily visible and accessible. The key box must be clearly labeled "FIRE DEPT." CFC 506

Electrically Operated Gates and Barriers

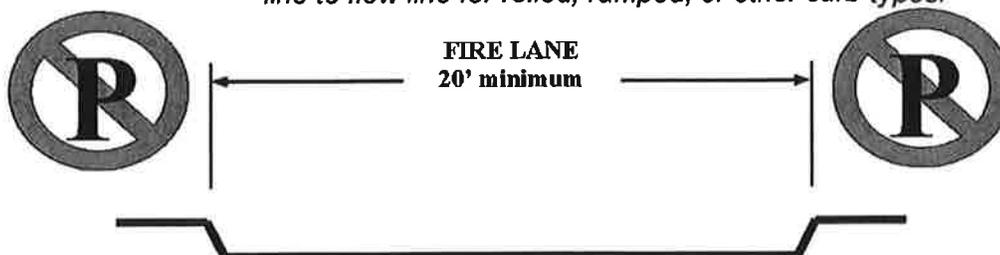
1) In the event of loss of normal power to the gate operating mechanism, it shall be automatically transferred to a fail-safe mode allowing the gate to be pushed open by a single firefighter without any other actions, knowledge, or manipulation of the operating mechanism being necessary and without the use of battery back-up power; this shall be noted on the plan. The manufacturer's specification sheet demonstrating compliance with this method of operation during power loss shall be provided or scanned directly onto the plan. Should the gate be too large or heavy for a single firefighter to open manually, a secondary source of power by means of an emergency generator or a capacitor with enough reserve to automatically and immediately open the gate upon loss of primary power shall be provided.

2) The gate control for electronic gates shall be operable by a Knox emergency override key switch (with dust cover). The key switch shall be placed between 42" and 48" above the roadway surface at the right side of the access gate within two feet of the edge of the roadway. The key switch shall be readily visible and unobstructed from the fire lane leading to the gate. The key switch shall be clearly labeled "FIRE DEPT."

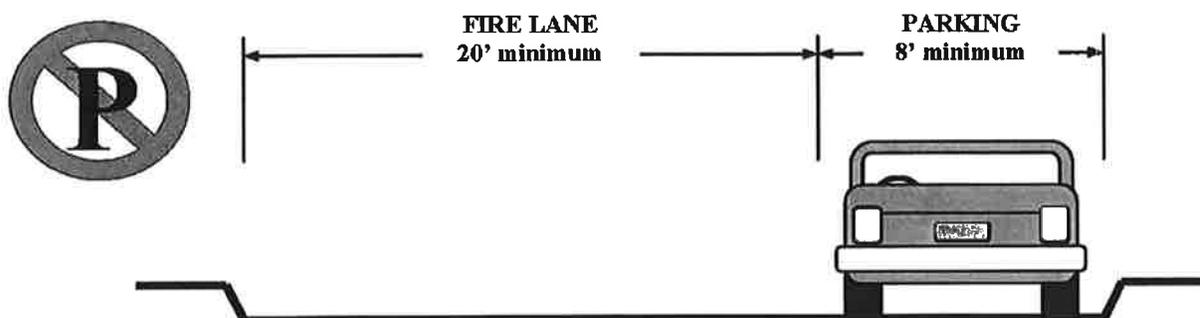
Gate and Barrier Locks - Gate or barrier locks shall be reviewed and approved prior to their installation on any new and/or existing access gate or barrier. Authorization/order forms for Knox products may be obtained through the Monterey Park Fire Prevention Bureau at 626-307-1308.

Minimum Road Widths

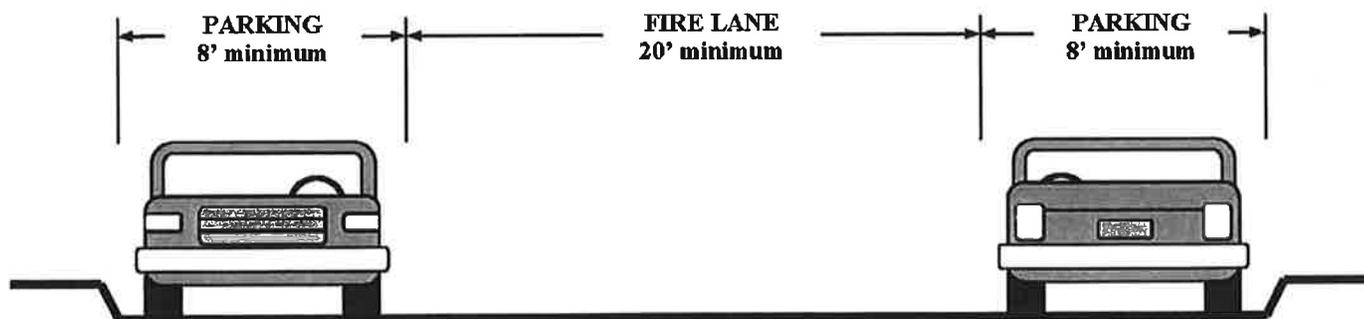
Measured from top face of curb to top face of curb for standard vertical curbs or flow line to flow line for rolled, ramped, or other curb types.



ROADWAY LESS THAN 28'
Parking prohibited.
Roadway is required to be posted as a fire lane.



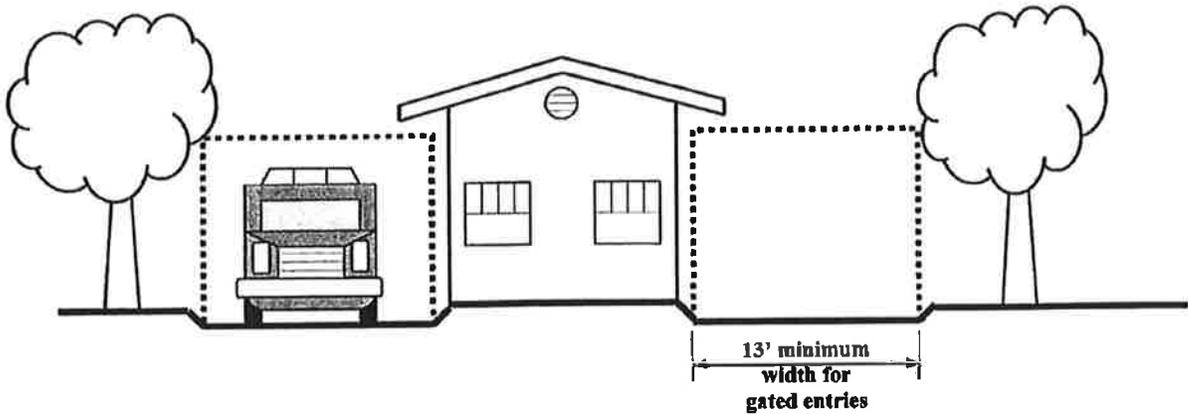
ROADWAY AT LEAST 28' BUT LESS THAN 36'
Parking permitted on one side only.
Roadway is required to be posted as a fire lane.



ROADWAY 36' OR WIDER
Parking permitted on both sides

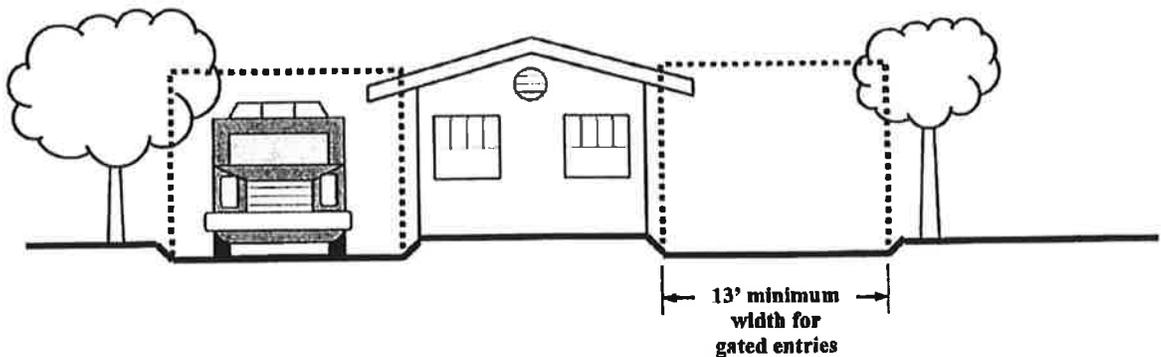
Fire Apparatus Access Roadway Clearance For Typical Gated Community Guard House

Fire lane width reductions detailed below are applicable only to the area immediately adjacent to the guard house or gate. Roads leading up to and beyond the guard house or gate shall meet standard fire lane width requirements



PROPER CLEARANCE PROVIDED

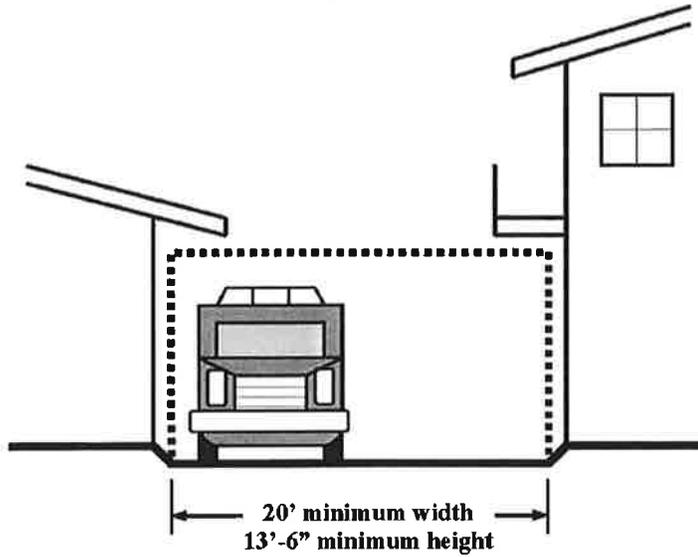
Eaves and vegetation do not encroach upon the 13'-wide by 13'-6" high minimum dimensions allowed for the fire access roadway next to the guard house.



INSUFFICIENT CLEARANCE

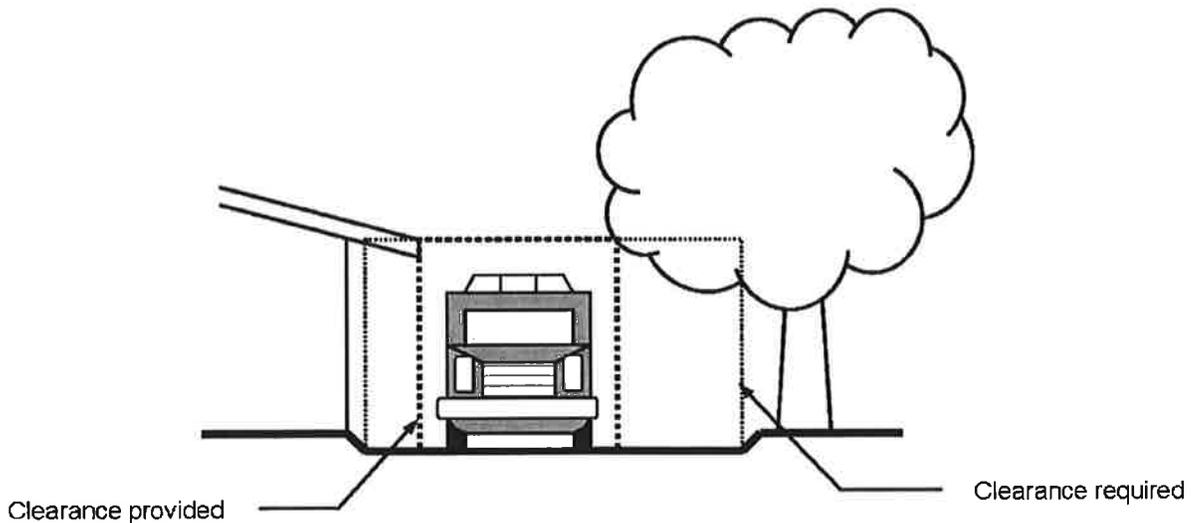
While a 13'-wide access roadway is provided next to the guard house, eaves and vegetation encroach upon the minimum clear height of the fire lane.

Fire Apparatus Access Roadway Clearance



PROPER CLEARANCE PROVIDED

Eaves, balconies, and other obstructions do not encroach upon the 20' wide by 13'-6" high fire access roadway envelope.

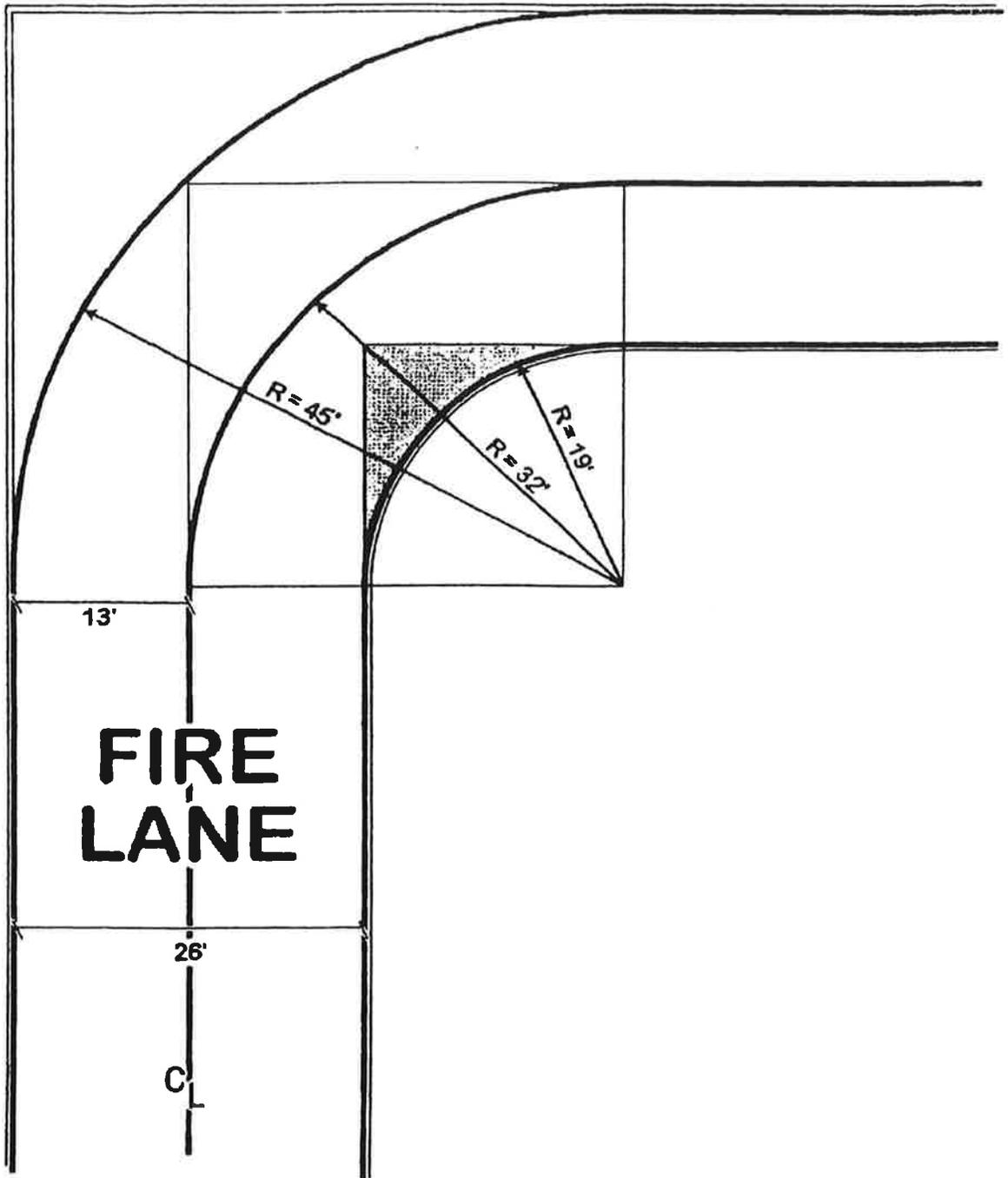


INSUFFICIENT CLEARANCE

A 20'-wide roadway has been provided, but eaves and vegetation effectively reduce the clear dimensions below required minimums.

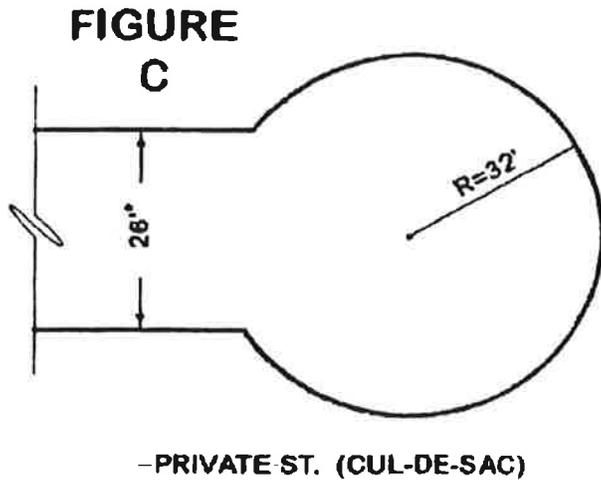
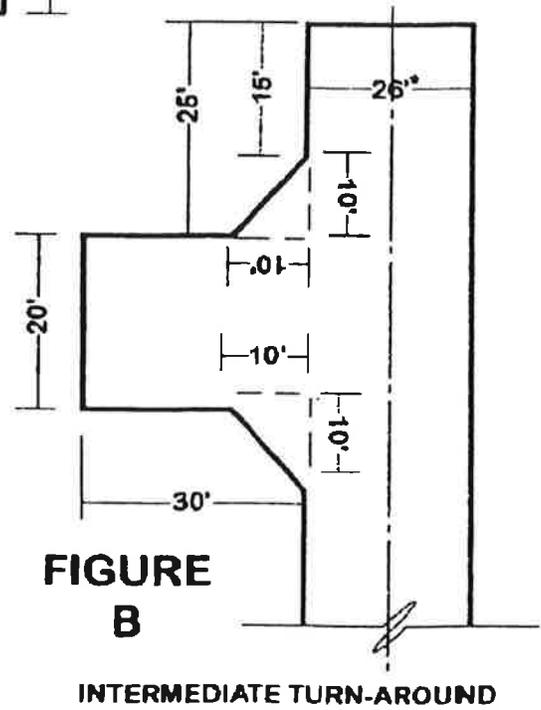
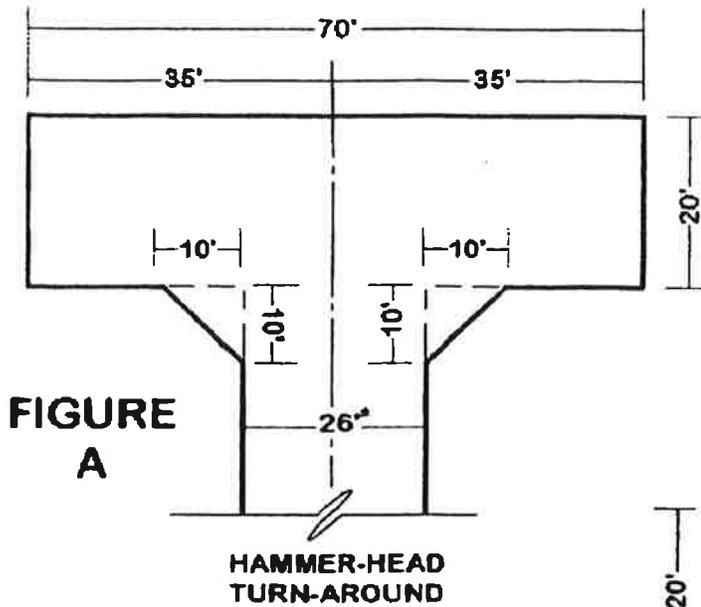
MONTEREY PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS TURNING RADIUS
PUMPER



MONTEREY PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

FIRE APPARATUS TURNAROUND STANDARD
PUMPER



★ MAY BE REDUCED TO 20' FOR SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCES

MONTEREY PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

FIRE APPARATUS TURNAROUND STANDARD
LADDER TRUCK

