

CITY OF BOULDER CWPP

APPENDIX D

ACCESS AND ADDRESSING RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

Introduction

This appendix has been designed with public education in mind. It should be used to help familiarize homeowners, contractors, and developers with the general principles of the access and water supply needs of firefighters. The recommendations in this section are based on proven practices. However, they are not intended to be a substitute for locally adopted codes.

Emergency response personnel do their best to respond to calls in a timely manner, often while negotiating difficult terrain. Planning for access by emergency equipment allows for a more efficient response, improving safety for residents and their families, as well as that of the firefighters and emergency medical technicians that will arrive on scene.

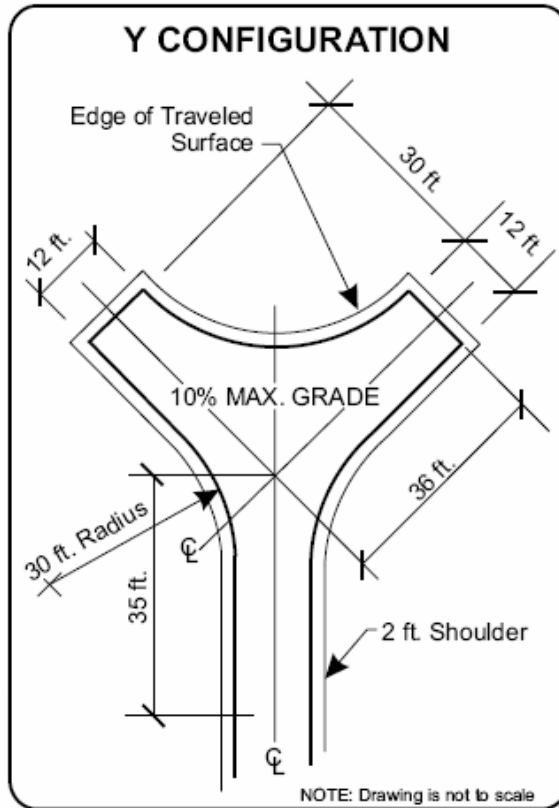
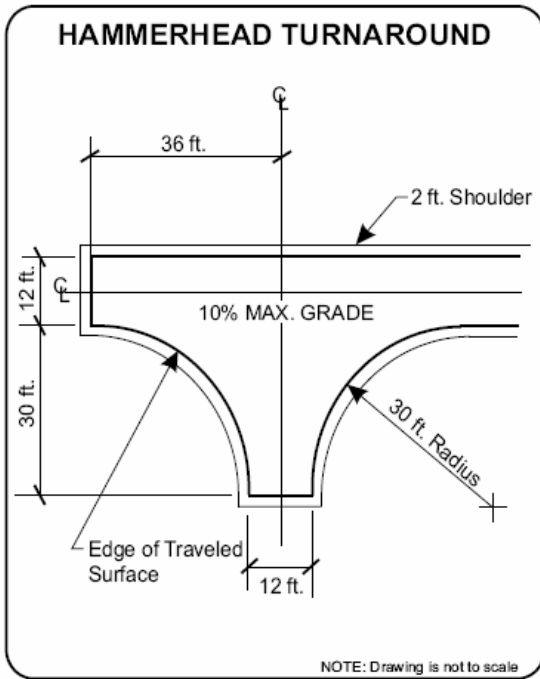
Access Guidelines

Driveway Turnarounds

Turnarounds that are unobstructed by parked vehicles are designed to allow for the safe reversal of direction by emergency equipment. The “Y” and “Hammerhead” turnarounds shown below are preferred because they provide the necessary access, while minimizing disturbance to the site. Turnarounds should be located at the end of every driveway.

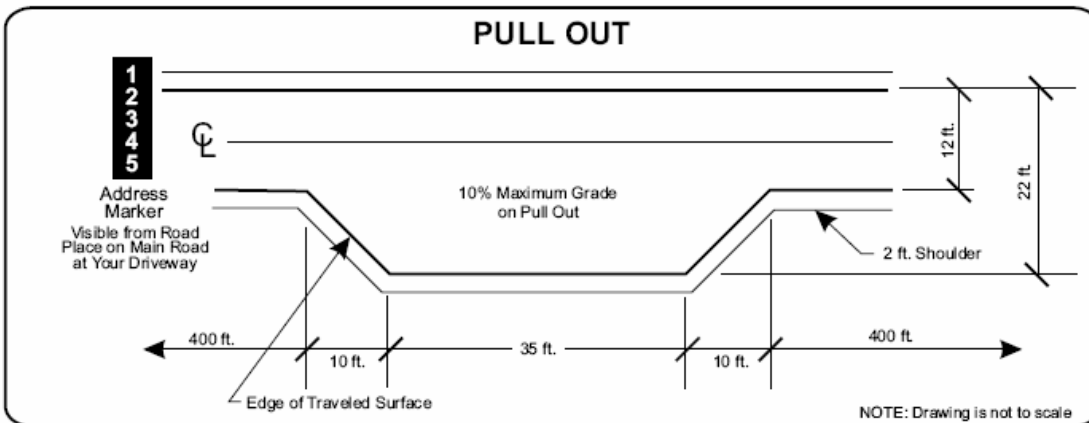
Driveway Width and Height

Driveways should have an unobstructed vertical clearance of 13' 6". Trees may need to be limbed and utility lines relocated to provide the necessary clearance. Driveways should have a 12' wide drivable surface and 14' of horizontal clearance.



Driveway Pullouts

Driveway pullouts are designed with sufficient length and width to allow emergency vehicles to pass one another during emergency operations. These features should be placed at 400' intervals along driveways and private access roads (community driveways). The location of pullouts may be modified slightly to accommodate physical barriers such as rock outcroppings, wetlands, and other natural or manmade features.



Address Markers

Every building should have a permanently posted, reflective address marker mounted on a non-combustible pole. The sign should be placed and maintained at each driveway entrance. Care should be taken to ensure that the location will not become obscured by vegetation, snow, or other features, whether natural or manmade. It is critical that the location and markings are adequate for easy night-time viewing. It is preferable to locate markers in a consistent manner within each community. A good guideline for this practice is to place the markers five feet above ground level on the right side of every driveway. Where multiple homes are accessed by a single driveway, all addresses that are accessed via that driveway should be clearly listed on the driveway marker. Where multi-access driveways split, each fork should indicate all the residences that are accessed by that fork, and the proper direction of travel to arrive at a given address. It is not adequate simply to mark addresses on a common pole in the center of the fork. Residential homes should have an additional reflective address marker permanently attached to the home in clear view of the driveway or access road. Homes that are marked by lot number while under construction should have the lot number removed and a permanent address marker posted before granting a certificate of occupancy.

Bridge Load Limits

Bridge load limits should be posted with a permanently mounted, reflective marker at both entrances to the bridge. Care should be taken to ensure that these markers will not become obscured by vegetation, snow, or other features, whether natural or manmade. It is critical that the location of the markings and the markings themselves be adequate for easy night-time viewing.