



## COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM

### FIRE MARSHAL OFFICE

5 County Complex Court, Suite 160, Prince William, Virginia 22192  
 (703) 792-6360 Metro 631-1703, Ext. 6360, Fax (703) 792-6492

DEPARTMENT OF  
 FIRE & RESCUE

Kevin J McGee  
 Chief

### FIRE LANES ON PUBLIC STREETS AND ON CERTAIN PRIVATE PROPERTY

1. When he deems it necessary, the County Fire Marshal shall designate fire lanes on public streets and on private property used for commercial, industrial, educational, or multi-family and townhouse residential purposes. The purpose of the fire lanes shall be to prevent parking and standing in front of or adjacent to fire hydrants and to provide clear access to buildings and fire protection equipment for fire and rescue apparatus. Parking or otherwise obstructing such areas is hereby prohibited. **If there is a fee associated with this permit, the fee is non-refundable. Reference the Fire Marshal's Office fee schedule for the applicable permit cost.**
2. Fire lanes shall conform to the following specifications:
  - a. Fire lanes in commercial, residential, industrial, and educational areas shall be a minimum of 20 feet wide. This 20 feet shall be measured perpendicularly from the painted curb or perimeter line.

<b>Standard Requirements</b>		
<i>Width curb to curb</i>	<i>One-way traffic</i>	<i>Two-way traffic</i>
Less than 20 feet	No parallel parking on either side of street	No parking
20 – 30 feet	Parking on one side	No parking
30 – 35 feet	Parallel parking allowed on both sides of street	Parallel parking on one side as determined by the Fire Marshal's Office
35 feet or greater	No fire lane will be established	No fire lane will be established

b. Approved fire lane signs must meet the following specifications:

- (1) Metal construction
- (2) Minimum dimension of 12" wide by 18" high
- (3) Red letters on white reflective background with 3/8 inch red trim strip around the entire outer edge of the sign.
- (4) Lettering on sign to be: "NO PARKING OR STANDING FIRE LANE." Arrows must be on signs to point to and indicate the area designated as fire lane.
- (5) Lettering size to be as follows:

"NO PARKING"	<b>2 inches</b>
"OR"	<b>1 inch</b>
"STANDING"	<b>2 inches</b>
"FIRE LANE"	<b>2 1/2 inches</b>

**Arrows                      1 inch solid (when required)**

**Spacing between words to be uniform.**

- (6) The signs used to mark the approved fire lane can be purchased from Prince William County Public Works located at 5 County Complex Court, Prince William, Virginia 22192. The phone number is (703) 792-6268.

c. Where fire lanes run through parking areas where no curbing is adjacent to it and posting of the above approved metal signs is not practical, "NO PARKING OR STANDING - FIRE LANE" may be painted on the pavement in letters at least two feet high.

d. Signs shall be posted at all intervals of 100 feet with the bottom of the sign no less than 6 feet from the ground and the top no more than 8 feet from the ground unless otherwise directed by the Fire Marshal. There must be a minimum of two signs designating fire lanes, one at each end.

e. Signs shall be posted in one of three ways: (1) on post parallel to curb line, (2) on both sides of columns perpendicular to curb line, or (3) double-sided signs mounted perpendicular to curb line on columns.

f. Curbing shall be painted yellow within the limits of the fire lane.

g. When curbing is not provided, a yellow line shall be painted on the pavement along the perimeter and within the limits of the fire lane with two-foot long

intersecting lines painted at three-foot intervals on the fire lane side of the perimeter.

3. Fire lanes within commercial or educational properties may be used for temporary stopping to pick up or discharge passengers or supplies provided that such vehicles be stopped parallel and immediately adjacent to the curb and provided that a licensed operator occupy and be in control of the vehicle while it is so stopped.
4. Fire lanes adjacent to commercial or business establishments which have no alternate loading zone or rear entrance may be used for temporary parking by vehicles engaged solely in loading or unloading supplies for merchandise to or from the establishment provided that the licensed operator of the vehicle is engaged solely in the loading or unloading operation.
5. Fire lanes within residential and industrial areas may be used for temporary stopping to pick up or discharge passengers or supplies provided that such vehicles be stopped parallel and immediately adjacent to the curb and provided that a licensed operator occupy and be in control of the vehicle while it is so stopped.
6. The perpendicular placement of vehicles for any purpose within the fire lane is prohibited.
7. Placing of any type of barrier, obstruction, or unattended vehicle within the fire lane shall be prohibited. EXCEPTION: This shall not prohibit the placement of stops or other devices that indicate "NO PARKING."
8. Any police officer or representative of the Fire Marshal's Office who finds any vehicle in violation shall have the authority to remove such vehicle at the owner's expense. This authority shall extend to any fire or rescue officer-in-charge of a fire or rescue operation who finds any such violation to be interfering with such emergency operations. During emergency situations, the fire lane may be used only by fire, rescue, or police vehicles.
9. The Prince William County police are authorized to enter any fire lane for the purpose of enforcing the "NO PARKING OR STANDING" provisions of this ordinance.
10. No provision of this code shall apply to fire, rescue, or police vehicles while they are involved in emergency operations.
11. This provision shall apply equally to both new and existing conditions. A period of 30 days from time of notification shall be allowed existing conditions to bring their area into compliance. Where due to existing physical barriers, such as sidewalks and buildings, it becomes impractical to comply with the above specified distances; the Fire Marshal may allow a variance for said barriers.

12. New Fire Lanes: Prior to the posting of any new fire lane, approval must first be obtained from the Fire Marshal's Office. After the fire lane is properly posted, the Fire Marshal's Office will inspect the area and place an approved sticker in the lower right-hand corner of the fire lane sign. The sticker will always be placed on the front of the sign. The approval sticker will serve as instant identification of an approved fire lane.
  - a. Procedure for approval:
    - (1) All requests for approval of a fire lane must be submitted in a formal written request. You may obtain a copy of the fire lane plan application by calling the Fire Marshal's Office at (703) 792-6360 or on our website at [www.pwcgov.org](http://www.pwcgov.org) and click on the code compliance tab.
    - (2) 3 sets of site plans of the project involved shall be provided with your application.
    - (3) A plans review fee shall be paid at the time of application.
    - (4) Upon receipt of the request, the Fire Marshal's Office will conduct a survey to ascertain if formal fire lanes are needed.
    - (5) If it is determined a fire lane is needed, the site plan will be returned with all the approved fire lanes clearly marked.
    - (6) The development or project has 30 days from the receipt of the approved site plan to prepare the fire lane for inspection.
    - (7) When the project has properly marked the fire lane, the responsible person will call for a final inspection.
13. Existing Fire Lanes: Existing fire lanes will be inspected and approved by the Fire Marshal's Office. When the fire lane is approved, all fire lane signs will have an approval sticker affixed.

Please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at (703) 792-6360, Monday through Friday, between 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. if you have any questions.