

T29.034

Fire Lanes (Official Under City Ordinance)

- Burdick Street
- Custer Street
Driveways to Parking Lots
- Glenbrook Road (Stark School)
Rear of School
- High Ridge Road (Rippowam High School)
Front, Rear and South Side of School
- Long Ridge Road (Mediplex)
- Merriebrook Lane (Champion/Tree Tops)
- Roxbury Road (Roxbury School)
Front of School
- Roxbury Road (Westhill High School)
Front of School Only
- Scofieldtown Road (Middle School)
Front of School
- Station Place
Front of Station
- Stillwater Road (Stillmeadow School)
Front of School
- Summer Street (Park Square West) 2 separate zones
- Vine Road (Turn of River School)
Front and Partial Rear of School
- Vine Road (Willard/Wormser Manner)

CHAPTER 126. - FIRE LANES

GENERAL REFERENCES

Traffic Commission—See Charter, Secs. C6-190-1 and C6-190-2.

Fire Department—See Ch. 25.

Fire prevention—See Ch. 127.

Vehicles and traffic—See Ch. 231.

FOOTNOTE(S):

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History—Adopted by the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford 6-1-1992 as Ord. No. 694. Amendments noted where applicable.

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Amended 3-4-2013 by Res. No. 3557, § 1(Exh. A).

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Editor's note—See Charter, Secs. C5-130-1 through C5-130-5.

Editor's Note—The Department of Traffic and Parking was eliminated by referendum on 11-7-1995. The responsibilities previously held by the Department of Traffic and Parking are now held by the Office of Operations. See Charter, Sec. C5-30-4.

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Editor's note—See Ch. 231, Vehicles and Traffic, §§ 231-6 and 231-7.

Sec. 126-1. - Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

Fire lane. A designated unobstructed area, sufficient in size to permit free passage and operation of fire and other emergency equipment from a public highway to all necessary areas or portions of any private or public property.

Fire marshal. A Fire Marshal in the City of Stamford and having jurisdiction over the premises that is open to the public.

MUTCD. The manual of uniform traffic control signals or devices established pursuant to Chapter 249 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Owner. Includes but is not limited to the corporation, agency, company, association or individual that is the owner of the property upon which creation of a fire lane is being sought.

Sec. 126-2. - Petition for establishment of fire lanes.

- A. Whenever the Fire Marshal having jurisdiction over a premises that is open to the public determines that parking in an area adjacent to a building or structure endangers the safety and welfare of the people using such building or structure and that the reasonable safety of such persons requires the establishment of a fire lane for the orderly access and operation of fire and other emergency equipment, said Fire Marshal may petition the Traffic Commission to designate the area a fire lane. Prior to the Traffic Commission establishing such fire lane, it shall give the owner of the property notice in writing, via certified mail. Said notice shall inform the owner of the existence of the petition and right to contest said petition.
- B. In requesting the establishment of any fire lane, the Fire Marshal shall take into consideration the size, type of construction and nature of use or occupancy of any buildings or facilities to be served; the location of handicapped parking spaces; the placement and availability of water sources, including but not limited to fire hydrants, building standpipes and sprinkler system connections; and the type of fire equipment, truck turning radius and the length of hoses available to the Fire Department.

Sec. 126-3. - Objections to petition.

- A. Any owner that objects to the Fire Marshal's petition to establish a fire lane on his property may file a written objection with the Traffic Commission within thirty (30) days of the date of the notice of the petition that was sent to the owner. Said objection shall set forth therein the reasons for the objection.
- B. Upon receiving a written objection by an owner of the subject property concerning the establishment of a fire lane, the Traffic Commission shall determine a time, place and date for the hearing on the matter and shall notify the owner by certified mail of said time, date and place. Hearings shall be informal and the rules of evidence shall not apply. The determination of the Traffic Commission shall be final, and the owner shall have no further right to appeal to any municipal agency.
- C. In the event that the owner does not file a written objection within thirty (30) days of the date of the notice, the Traffic Commission may render its decision on the petition without any input from the owner.

Sec. 126-4. - Minimum requirements; exceptions.

- A. All fire lanes shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet and a maximum of twenty-four (24) feet in width, consisting of either asphalt, gravel or other suitable hard surface, extending from a public street or a private road to all premises open to the public, to provide access to such premises for fire equipment and vehicles.
- B. An exception to the minimum or maximum width requirement may be granted upon the written approval of the Fire Marshal and the Traffic Commission.
- C. The established fire lane shall not reduce the number of parking spaces to a level that is below what is required by the city's Zoning Regulations.

Sec. 126-5. - Delineation.

- A. Upon establishment of a fire lane on private property that is open to the public, the owner shall cause to be erected or installed adequate signs, markings and other devices to delineate said fire lane in compliance with the signing standards established in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Latest Edition. All such signs, markings and other devices are to be erected or installed on the premises at owner's expense.
- B.

No signs, markings or other devices to delineate a fire lane shall be erected or installed by the owner until the Office of Operations ¹²¹ has given written approval of the plan or method of the owner's compliance with this chapter.

Sec. 126-6. - Signs; pavement markings.

A. Signs.

- (1) All signs shall conform to MUTCD standards.
- (2) Signs shall be post-mounted, facing both directions of travel (mounted back to back).
- (3) The distance between signs shall be a maximum of fifty (50) feet.

B. Pavement markings.

- (1) The lettering in the fire lane shall read "FIRE LANE—NO PARKING" for each travel direction.
- (2) Lane delineation will be as specified in the MUTCD.
- (3) All markings and lettering shall conform to the MUTCD.
- (4) On-site inspection shall be made with a representative of the Fire Marshal having jurisdiction, the owner of the property or its representative and a representative of the Department of Operations prior to installation.

Sec. 126-7. - Maintenance; fines.

A. Responsibilities of owner.

- (1) Whenever the Traffic Commission establishes a fire lane on premises that are open to the public, it shall be the responsibility of the owner to properly maintain the area so designated as provided in § 14-311b and other pertinent sections of the General Statutes. Said owner shall keep and maintain the fire lane free of ice and snow and of any other materials which would obstruct its use.
- (2) Fire lane signs and pavement markings shall be maintained by the owner. When notified by the Traffic Commission that such signs and pavement markings are missing or illegible, they must be restored to MUTCD standards by said owner.

B. If the owner does not comply with the Traffic Commission's designation within thirty (30) days of the date of the notice or the owner fails to restore an existing fire lane to MUTCD standards within thirty (30) days after the date of the notice, said owner shall be fined ninety-nine dollars (\$99.) for each day that the violation continues.

C. In addition to the foregoing, after the thirty-day period has expired, the Traffic Commission may restore an existing fire lane to MUTCD standards and seek reimbursement from the owner for the cost of the corrective work.

Sec. 126-8. - Violations and penalties.

A. The penalty for parking or standing in a designated fire lane shall be as prescribed in the parking violation section ¹²¹ of the Code of the City of Stamford, except in such cases where a regular maintenance is being performed on the subject property and the maintenance vehicle is attended and shall be promptly removed at the direction of public safety officials in the event of an emergency.

B. Any vehicle that is subject to a fine under Subsection A above shall be subject to being towed at the owner's expense.

Sec. 126-9. - Effect on other regulations.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as to limit or waive any requirements of state or local laws and regulations concerning activities falling within their jurisdiction.

Sec. 126-10. - Enforcement.

In addition to other available methods of enforcement, this chapter may also be enforced through the civil citation process.