



# City of Pasadena Fire Marshal's Office



David M. Brannon  
Fire Marshal

## SECTION 13-10 EMERGENCY ACCESS GATES

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to construct, install or maintain, or cause to be constructed, installed or maintained, any blocking device, such as a gate, chains or other barrier, used for the purpose of blocking access from a public street to a private street or driveway of any multifamily residential property without first obtaining a permit approved by the fire marshal.
- (b) Such gates or barriers on private street drives at entrances to multifamily residential property projects shall conform to the following standards:
  - (1) One fourteen-foot gate that opens to provide at least fourteen (14) feet of access width where the drive is less than twenty-eight (28) feet wide.
  - (2) Two (2) gates of minimum thirteen-foot width each where drive is twenty-eight (28) feet wide.
  - (3) One twenty-eight-foot gate that gives full access where drive is twenty-eight (28) feet wide.
- (c) Existing gates
  - (1) "Approved" gates shall mean those gates approved, in writing, by the fire marshal. An applicant seeking such approval shall submit four (4) sets of plans to the building official with his application for a building permit. Gates approved prior to February 1, 1994 are not affected by this ordinance, unless gates prove inadequate during an actual emergency situation. Such unsatisfactory performance will require full compliance with all requirements of this section. Any remodeling or rebuilding of approved gates that changes the gate opening or opening device must be resubmitted to the fire marshal for approval.
  - (2) "Unapproved" gates shall mean those gates that do not have written fire marshal approval. Unapproved gates shall be submitted for the fire marshal's approval as specified in section 13-10 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Pasadena.
- (d) All construction codes and permitting requirements of the City of Pasadena shall be applicable to the blocking devices described in section 13-10(a). Any such blocking device, shall be designed, constructed, installed or maintained to meet the following standards:
  - (1) An emergency vehicle of the fire department moving at a speed of one to seven (7) miles per hour can force open the blocking device without causing any damage to the emergency equipment, or fifty (50) pounds or less pressure exerted against such blocking device.
  - (2) All blocking devices (except break-away type chains) shall be so designed that once the blocking device is released, it will automatically open and remain so until it is closed manually.
  - (3) All locking, holding, or latching devices permitted shall be of the shear pin or shear-section type meeting the requirements set forth in paragraph one of this document.
  - (4) All blocking devices shall be so designed so that no damage will occur to an emergency vehicle when pressure is exerted to force such devices open.
  - (5) A blocking device may incorporate the above numbers one through four (4) or the equivalent as determined by the fire marshal or his representative using recognized industry standards.
  - (6) All blocking devices shall be equipped with a radio receiver compatible with police department and fire department radio equipment which allows emergency vehicles and other necessary on-duty city employees to open the blocking device by use of such equipment.
- (e) Prior to any changes, alterations or blocking of private streets, plans detailing such change, accompanied by drawings, shall be submitted to the fire marshal for approval. The fire marshal or his representative shall inspect all such installations and shall be given the opportunity to be present when such blocking devices are tested for final approval.