

## Site and Building Planning Guide for Commercial Occupancies based upon the 2003 International Fire Code as Adopted and Amended by the City of Wheat Ridge and the Arvada Fire Protection District

This site and building planning guide for commercial occupancies is based upon the 2003 International Fire Code, as amended and adopted by the City of Wheat Ridge and the Arvada Fire Protection District. This site and building planning guide for commercial occupancies is based upon the 2003 International Fire Code and the 2003 International Building Code. Commercial occupancies include for site planning all buildings other than one and two family dwellings and town homes as classified by the International Residential Code as Group R, Division 3 Occupancies. This guide is prepared for use within the areas of the City of Wheat Ridge that are within the boundaries of the Arvada Fire Protection District. This information is intended to be used as a guide for site and building planning purposes. This guide is not designed or intended to be inclusive of all code requirements. Additional requirements based upon the 2003 edition of the International Fire Code as amended, may be addressed upon the submittal and review of site and building plans by the Division of Fire Prevention.

### Building Address Numbers:

New buildings shall have approved address numbers, building numbers or approved building identification placed upon the building in a position that is plainly legible and visual from the street or roadway fronting the property. The address numbers shall contrast in their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Address or building identification numbers shall be a minimum height of not less than four (4) inches, and with a minimum stroke width of not less than 0.5 inches.

IFC 03 505.1.

When address numbers are placed on buildings that are provided from alleys or private streets from the main street frontage, address signs and or address numbers shall be posted at the entrance to the alley or private street. The address signs shall be approved by the Division of Fire Prevention prior to installation.

IFC 03 505.1.

## Fire Apparatus Access Roads:

Approved fire apparatus access roads shall be provided for every facility, building or portion of a building hereafter constructed or moved into the Arvada Fire Protection District. The fire apparatus access road shall comply with the requirements of the fire code and shall extend to within one-hundred-fifty (150) feet of all portions of the exterior wall of the first story of the building as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility.

IFC 03 503.1.1.

Exception: The fire marshal is authorized to increase the dimension of one-hundred-fifty (150) feet where:

1. The building is provided throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1. Fire Protection Systems of the fire code.
2. Fire apparatus access roads cannot be installed because of location on property, topography, waterways, nonnegotiable grades or other similar conditions, and an approved alternative means of fire protection is provided.

## Installation of Fire Apparatus Access Roads:

Fire apparatus access roads shall be installed and approved by the Division of Fire Prevention prior to above grade construction.

IFC 03 503.2.3. Amended.

## Additional Access:

The fire marshal or designated representative is authorized to require more than one fire apparatus access road based upon the potential for impairment of a single road by vehicle congestion, condition of terrain, climatic conditions or other factors that could limit access.

IFC 03 503.1.2.

## Fire Apparatus Access Road Widths:

Fire apparatus access roads or fire access lanes shall have a minimum unobstructed width of twenty-four (24) feet.

IFC 03 503.2.1. Amended.

### Vertical Clearance:

An unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than thirteen (13) feet, six (6) inches shall be provided and maintained.

IFC 03 503.2.1.

### Authority:

The fire marshal shall have the authority to require an increase in the minimum access widths where they are inadequate for fire or rescue operations.

IFC 03 503.2.2.

### Surface:

Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of eighty-five thousand (85,000) pound fire apparatus and shall be surfaced with the first lift of asphalt to provide all-weather driving capabilities prior to above grade construction.

IFC 03 503.2.3. Amended.

Grass-crete, Ritter-Rings or similar landscape treatments that will prevent a fire apparatus access road from being maintainable as an all-weather surface and immediately discernable, shall be prohibited.

IFC 03 503.2.3.

### Turning Radius:

The required turning radius for fire apparatus shall be a minimum outside radius of forty-six feet (46) feet. The inside radius shall be a minimum of twenty-six (26) feet with a four (4) foot bumper overhang.

IFC 03 503.2.4.

Copies of approved turning radius templates are available from the Division of Fire Prevention upon request.

### Dead End Fire Apparatus Access Roads:

Dead end fire apparatus access roads in excess of one-hundred-fifty (150) feet in length shall be provided with an approved area for the turning around of fire apparatus.

IFC 03 503.2.5.

### Bridges and Elevated Surfaces:

Where a bridge or elevated surface is part of a fire apparatus access road, the bridge shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with AASHITO HB-17 and City of Wheat Ridge Engineering Standards. Bridges and surfaces shall be designed for a live load of a minimum of eighty-five thousand (85,000) pound fire apparatus. Vehicle load limits shall be posted at both entrances to bridges. Where elevated surfaces which are not designed as for use of fire apparatus, approved barriers or signs shall be installed and maintained.

IFC 03 503.2.6.

### Fire Apparatus Access Road Grades:

The grade of fire apparatus access roads shall not exceed City of Wheat Ridge Engineering Standards and Arvada Fire Protection District Standards.

IFC 03 503.2.7.

### Marking of Fire Apparatus Access Roads:

“No Parking Fire Lane” signs shall be installed on each side of fire apparatus access roads, private streets or alleys to identify such roads and to prohibit parking. The maximum spacing between signs shall not exceed one-hundred-thirty-five (135) feet. “No Parking Fire Lane” signs shall meet the requirements set forth within the City of What Ridge Standards.

IFC 03 503.3.

### Mountable Curbs:

Vertical curbs shall not be placed at the entrance of or within fire access lanes or roads. Mountable curbs and gutter may be used, if approved by the fire marshal.  
IFC 03 503.2.8. Amended.

### Water Supplies and Fire Hydrants for Fire Protection:

Water lines and fire hydrants shall be installed, operational and capable of providing the minimum required fire flow for the building(s) or sites prior to above grade construction.  
IFC 03 508.5.1.

Water lines shall be installed and looped in accordance with the Water District of jurisdiction standards.

### Fire Flow Calculation Area:

The fire flow calculation area shall be the total floor area of all floors within the exterior walls, and under the horizontal projections of the roof of a building except as modified in Section B 104.3.  
IFC 03 Appendix B. Section B 104.1.

The fire flow calculation area of buildings constructed of Type IA and Type IIB construction shall be the area of the three largest successive floors.  
IFC 03 Appendix B. Section B 104.3.

### Minimum Required Fire Flow:

The minimum required fire flow for buildings is calculated from Appendix B, Table B 105.1.  
IFC 03 Appendix B.

A copy of Appendix B, Table B is available upon request from the Division of Fire Prevention.

### Reductions in the Minimum Required Fire Flow Area Separations:

Portions of buildings which are separated by two (2) hour fire walls without openings,

constructed in accordance with the 2003 International Building Code are allowed to be considered as separate fire flow calculations.

IFC 03 Appendix B. Section B 104.2.

A reduction in the required fire flow up to fifty (50) percent as approved by the fire marshal is allowed when the building is provided with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.1.1. Fire Protection Systems of the fire code. The resulting available fire flow shall not be less than one-thousand-five-hundred (1,500) gallons per minute for the prescribed duration as specified in Appendix B Table B 105.1

IFC 03 Appendix B Section B 105.2.

### Sprinkler Systems Not Permitted For Reduction In Minimum Required Fire Flows:

NFPA 13-R Sprinkler Systems are not permitted to be used for a reduction in the minimum required fire flow.

IFC 03 Appendix B Section B103.1. Decreases Amended.

### Fire Flow Test Information:

Fire flow test information may be obtained from the Division of Fire Prevention of the Arvada Fire Protection District. Fire flow tests are usually completed within ten (10) working days, unless conflicts or adverse weather conditions arise in scheduling tests with the Valley Water District or the Division of Fire Prevention.

IFC 03 508.4.

### Fire Hydrant Spacing:

Fire hydrant spacing in commercial and multi-family occupancies shall be installed at a maximum of three-hundred (300) feet spacing between units.

IFC 03 508.5.1. Exception 3 Amended.

Fire hydrant locations shall be approved by the Water District of jurisdiction and the Division of Fire Prevention.

IFC 03 508.5.1.

## Sprinkler or Standpipe Systems and Fire Hydrant Location:

A fire hydrant shall be installed and maintained within one-hundred-fifty (150) feet of a fire department connection serving a sprinkler or standpipe system.

IFC 03 508.1. Amended.

## Fire Hydrants and Installation:

Fire hydrants shall be painted colors as approved by the Water District of jurisdiction.

IFC 03 508.5.7 Amended.

Fire hydrants shall be installed in such a manor that the four and one-half (4-1/2) inch discharge nozzle on the fire hydrant is a minimum of eighteen (18) inches above finished grade in accordance with Water District of jurisdiction standards.

## Fire Hydrant Hose Thread Connections:

Fire hydrant discharge nozzle threads shall be National Standard Threads or in accordance with the Water District of jurisdiction.

## Fire Hydrant Obstructions:

Posts, fences, vehicles, growth, trash storage, mail kiosks, transformers or other materials or objects shall not be placed or kept near fire hydrants that would prevent such equipment from being immediately discernable.

IFC 03 508.5.4.

## Fire Hydrants Subject To Vehicle Damage:

Fire hydrants that are subject to vehicular impact shall be protected by posts that comply with the fire code or by other approved physical barriers that comply with the fire code.

IFC 03 312.1.

1. Constructed of steel not less than four (4) inches in diameter and concrete filled.
2. Spaced not more than four (4) feet between posts on center.

3. Set not less than three (3) feet deep in concrete footing of not less than a fifteen (15) inch diameter.
4. Set with the top of the posts not less than three (3) feet above the ground.
5. Located not less than three (3) feet from the protected object.

Other barriers: Physical barriers shall be a minimum of thirty-six inches in height and shall resist a force of twelve (12,000) pounds applied thirty-six (36) inches above the adjacent ground surface.  
IFC 03 312.3.

#### Clear Space Around Fire Hydrants:

A minimum of a three (3) foot clear space shall be provided and maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants.  
IFC 03 508.5.5.

#### Fire Protection Systems:

For information on sprinkler or standpipe systems that may be required by the International Fire and Building Codes or required for access, fire flow requirements for water supply, please contact the Division of Fire Prevention or the Building Department of the City of Wheat Ridge.

#### Sprinkler System Requirements as Amended:

In addition to the required sprinkler system installations as specified within the International Fire Code, 2003 edition, the following occupancies shall be required to be provided with automatic sprinkler systems:

#### Group B Occupancies:

An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in Group B, Occupancies where the floor area exceeds twelve-thousand (12,000) square feet or eighteen-thousand

(18,000) square feet on combined floors and mezzanines.  
IFC 03 903.2.1.6. Amended.

### Group E Occupancies:

An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in Group E Occupancies where the floor area exceeds twelve-thousand (12,000) square feet or eighteen-thousand (18,000) square feet on combined floors and mezzanines:  
IFC 03 903.2.2. Amended.

### Group F-2 Occupancies:

An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in Group F-2 Occupancies where the floor area exceeds twelve-thousand (12,000) square feet or eighteen-thousand (18,000) square feet on combined floors and mezzanines.  
IFC 03 903.2.2.2. Amended.

An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in Group S-2 Occupancies where the floor area exceeds twelve-thousand (12,000) square feet or eighteen-thousand (18,000) square feet on combined floors and mezzanines.  
IFC 03 903.2.9.1.2. Amended.

### Underground Lines for Fire Protection Systems:

Underground fire lines and water lines shall be adequately sized for the sprinkler system design density and required inside and outside hose streams.

Underground contractors shall be licensed with the Colorado Division of Fire Safety and the Water District of jurisdiction.

Underground fire line design and installation will need to be approved and inspected by the Water District of jurisdiction.

The two-hundred (200) pound hydrostatic two (2) hour test shall be witnessed by the Division of Fire Prevention.  
IFC 03 508.5.3.

## Back Flow Prevention:

Back flow prevention shall be installed on all new sprinkler and standpipe systems.  
IFC 03 903.3.5.

Double Check back flow prevention devices may be installed for sprinkler and standpipe systems without chemicals.

Reduced Pressure back flow prevention shall be installed on sprinkler and standpipe systems using anti-freeze or chemicals.

Please contact the Water District of jurisdiction for installation and type of back flow prevention that is approved for installation.  
IFC 03 912.5.

## Fire Sprinkler or Standpipe Control Rooms:

When an automatic fire sprinkler system or standpipe system is provided within a building and serves more than one tenant space, the main control valves shall be located within a room of sufficient size that has access provided from the building exterior with a door that is provided for fire department access. Said door shall not be less than three (3) feet in width, by six (6) feet eight (8) inches in height and shall be appropriately labeled with a permanent sign having letters of not less than one (1) inch in height stating, "Fire Control Room".

IFC 03 903.1.2. Amended for Sprinkler Systems. IFC 03 905.1.2. Amended for Standpipe Systems.

## Fire Department Connection Locations for Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems:

The fire department connection serving a sprinkler or standpipe system shall be located on the front of the building as approved by the fire marshal.

IFC 03 903.3.7.

## Fire Department Connection Height:

A fire department connection serving a sprinkler or standpipe system shall be installed at a minimum height of not less than three (3) feet nor more than four (4) feet above finished grade.

IFC 03 903.3.7.1. Amended Sprinkler System. IFC 03 905.5.1. Amended Standpipe System.

### Access to Fire Department Connections:

Immediate access to fire department connections shall be provided and maintained at all times and without obstruction by fences, bushes, trees, walls, or any other object for a minimum of three (3) feet.

IFC 03 912.3.

### Locking Fire Department Connection Caps:

Locking Knox fire department connection caps shall be provided on fire department connections for water-based fire-protection systems.

IFC 03 912.3.1.

Please contact the Division of Fire Prevention for application form.

The doors to the electrical room shall be labeled, "Main Electrical Disconnect" in a minimum of one (1) inch letters on a contrasting background.

IFC 03 605.3.1.2. Amended.

### Gas Meters Subject to Vehicular Damage:

Gas meters that are subject to vehicular damage shall be adequately protected by posts or other approved barriers that comply with the fire code.

IFC 03 312.1.

1. Constructed of steel not less than four (4) inches in diameter and filled with concrete.
2. Spaced not more than four (4) feet between posts on center.
3. Set not less than three (3) feet deep in a concrete footing of not less than a fifteen (15) inch diameter.

4. Set with the top of the posts not less than three (3) feet above the ground.  
located not less than three (3) feet from the protected object.

Other barriers: Physical barriers shall be a minimum of thirty-six (36) inches in height and shall resist a force of twelve (12,000) pounds applied thirty-six (36) inches above the adjacent ground surface.

IFC 03 312.3.

### Key Boxes:

A Knox Box key box shall be provided on all buildings that have required sprinkler systems, extinguishing systems, standpipe systems or fire alarm systems.

IFC 03 506.3. Amended.

Please contact the Division of Fire Prevention for an application form.

The key box shall contain all necessary keys to gain access to the building and fire control rooms and shall be maintained at all times.

IFC 03 506.2

### Trash Enclosures:

Trash enclosures shall be of non-combustible construction including gates or doors.

IFC 03 304.2.1. Amended.