

# 2009 FIRE PREVENTION CODE

## CHAPTER 5

March 2011

CODE REVIEW

Code Quick Review -  
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Topics

### Fire Apparatus Access Roads

#### 503.2 Specifications Part I

**References:**

North Carolina Fire  
Prevention Code, 2009  
Edition; Section 503.2,  
pg 41-42

*\*NC Department of  
Insurance, Office of the State  
Fire Marshal, Interpretation.*

**503.2.1 Dimensions.** Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet (6096 mm), except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.6, and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches (4115 mm).

- The 20 foot width is intended to allow two fire apparatus to pass. The need for apparatus to pass one another may present itself during fire ground operations.



**503.2.2 Authority.** The fire code official shall have the authority to require an increase in the minimum access widths where they are inadequate for fire or rescue operations.

- The fire code official has the authority to increase this width based upon the anticipated size and maneuverability of future apparatus, or the requirements of mutual aid response apparatus.



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**503.2.3 Surface.** Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus and shall be surfaced so as to provide all weather driving capabilities.

- This provision does not specify a particular type of surface though the language “all weather driving capabilities” would typically require some type of hard or paved surface. Gravel, dirt, or un-tampered ground would be prone to problems in snow, ice, or heavy rains, such as those common with hurricanes.

