

**CHAPTER 10. FIRE LANES**

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**Article 10.1 Purpose**

Fire lanes are established for the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, and welfare by recognizing that there exist, and will in the future exist, buildings and other areas within the town within which and to which the public will be invited, served, or housed. These buildings or other areas must be provided prompt adequate emergency services, including access by firefighters and fire-fighting equipment and other emergency personnel and equipment in order to accomplish said purposes and effect the saving of life and property in emergency situations.

**Article 10.2 Definitions**

Section 10.2.1 A “fire lane” is defined for the purposes of this article as a designated unobstructed passageway at least twenty (20) feet in width with an outside turning radius of fifty (50) and constructed and maintained in a manner to permit free passage of fire apparatus and other emergency equipment and personnel from a public way to all necessary areas, regardless of season of year or weather conditions, around buildings, in areas or in developments or subdivisions as may be required elsewhere in this article.

Section 10.2.2 “Parking area” as defined in this article means lots, areas, or other accommodations for the parking of motor vehicles off the street, alley or other way, which said lots, areas or other accommodations are available for use by the public either with or without charge.

**Article 10.3 Applicability**

The provisions of this article shall, in order to accomplish the stated purpose, be applicable to all proposed and existing developments, subdivisions, buildings, and other premises, which are included within the following:

- .1 Nonresidential subdivisions.
- .2 Any nonresidential development not requiring subdivision approval.
- .3 Residential subdivisions.
- .4 Any proposed construction requiring site plan review by the Planning Board.
- .5 All schools whether public or private.

- .6 Hospitals.
- .7 Convalescent homes, rest homes, and/or nursing homes.
- .8 In addition to the foregoing, all other places of public assembly used for gathering together of fifty (50) or more persons.

#### **Article 10.4 Establishment of Fire Lanes in the Town**

Section 10.4.1 Each application for residential or nonresidential subdivision approval and each application for site plan review or review under the zoning regulations, chapter 38, submitted to the Planning Board shall be reviewed by the chief of the Rangeley Fire Department and/or the fire marshal of the fire district within which said development or building is located. The said fire chief and/or fire marshal shall review each such application to determine the location of such fire lanes as are necessary under this article and report his findings, recommendations and suggested designations of fire lanes to the Planning Board in writing, which findings, recommendations, and suggested designations of fire lanes shall be made a part of the record of proceedings before the Planning Board on each such subdivision site plan review application. In such case, the decision of the Planning Board shall govern the requirements and designation of said fire lanes.

Section 10.4.2 In any application for a building permit, occupancy or change of use permit not requiring subdivision or site plan review and approval, but otherwise included within Section 8-102 above, the building inspector shall notify the fire chief of the application for permit and the fire chief or fire marshal shall designate directly to the owner, owners or agent of the premises for which permit application is made the location of required fire lanes.

Section 10.4.3 Within existing developments and premises to which this article is applicable, the fire chief shall designate fire lanes by written order and shall notify in writing both the Planning Board and the owner, owners, or agents of such developments or premises by certified mail of such designation and of any specific requirements for compliance with this article and, shall publish notice of such establishment of such fire lanes once in a newspaper having general circulation within the Town of Rangeley. The fire chief shall file one copy of any order of designation of any such fire lane with the town clerk. Any person aggrieved by such order may file with the clerk within fifteen (15) days after the date of the receipt of such order written notice of appeal, setting forth therein reasons for aggrievement.

Section 10.4.4 A public hearing shall be held by the Planning Board after which the board must affirm, modify or rescind such order within thirty (30) days of the public hearing. The board shall notify the fire chief, as may be applicable, by written communication, any and all action taken relative to the establishment of a fire lane.

**Article 10.5 Maintenance and Identification of Fire Lanes**

Fire lanes established under this article shall be kept free of ice and snow and rubbish containers or other obstructions. The owner, owners, agent or occupant of any premises to which this article is applicable shall cause to be erected, installed, and maintained at their own expense, permanent, adequate signs bearing the words, "FIRE LANE - NO PARKING - VEHICLES WILL BE TOWED AT OWNER'S EXPENSE" in or adjacent to said fire lane. Such owner, owners, agents or occupants shall cause such other and further declarations as are reasonably required by the fire chief to warn persons to keep said fire lanes unobstructed. Failure to maintain a fire lane in accordance with this section shall render the owner, owners, agent or occupant of said development liable to a fine in accordance with the general penalty provision of this code, with each continuing day of such violation constituting a separate offense.

**Article 10.6 Compliance**

Notice of establishment of fire lanes shall prescribe a reasonable time for compliance. If compliance is not obtained within said time, then such owner, owners, or agents shall be subject to a fine in accordance with the general penalty provisions of this code. Each day following such specified time for compliance shall constitute a new and separate violation. Reasonable time - seven (7) days.

**Article 10.7 Parking Prohibited**

Section 10.7.1 No person shall park or permit to stand a motor vehicle in any fire lane established in accordance with this article, except when actually picking up or discharging passengers or actively engaged in loading or unloading a motor vehicle.

Section 10.7.2 The registered owner of said motor vehicle shall be presumed to be the operator of such vehicle. Any motor vehicle found parked or standing in a fire lane that has been established in accordance with this article, may be towed upon the direction of a police officer, to any public or private parking facility and all expense of such towing, and any subsequent storage shall be borne by the registered owner or operator of such vehicle.

**Article 10.8 Penalty**

Any person, owner or occupant of any development, subdivision, building or any other area of any established fire lane as designated in this code, who does not maintain a fire lane in accordance with Section 8-104 shall be liable for a fine or \$100 with each continuing day of such violation constituting a separate offense.