



Woodland Fire Department

CLEARANCES FOR FIRE HYDRANTS AND FIRE APPLIANCES

Guideline CRR-011

PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to establish minimum clearance and access requirements for fire hydrants and fire appliances to ensure they remain visible, accessible, and operable for use by the Woodland Fire Department during emergency operations.

Adequate clearances are essential for providing firefighters with safe and unobstructed access to water supplies and critical fire protection equipment. These requirements help prevent delays in fire suppression, protect system components from damage, and maintain compliance with the California Fire Code (CFC), NFPA 1, and NFPA 24 standards.

This document provides guidance for contractors, developers, property owners, and maintenance personnel to properly design, install, and maintain clear access around fire hydrants, post indicator valves (PIVs), fire department connections (FDCs), automatic sprinkler risers, standpipe systems, and other fire protection appliances within the City of Woodland.

SCOPE

This guideline applies to all new and existing fire hydrants and fire appliances located within the City of Woodland, including those on public and private property. Fire appliances covered by this document include fire hydrants, fire department connections (FDCs), post indicator valves (PIVs), automatic fire sprinkler risers and control valves, standpipe system hose cabinets and connections, kitchen hood fire suppression pull stations, and portable fire extinguishers.

These clearance requirements apply to:

- New development and construction projects
- Tenant improvements
- Site modifications affecting hydrants or fire appliances
- Landscaping and hardscape installations
- Ongoing property maintenance
- Any condition where visibility or access to fire protection equipment could be impeded

This guideline supplements the requirements of the California Fire Code (CFC) and applicable NFPA standards. Where conflicts exist, the more restrictive requirement shall apply.

REFERENCES

The following codes, standards, and resources are referenced in this guideline and should be consulted for detailed regulatory requirements:

- **California Fire Code (CFC), Current Adopted Edition:** Sections 312, 507, 509, 906, and 912 regarding hydrant access, appliance protection, and clearance requirements.
- **California Building Code (CBC), Current Adopted Edition**
- **NFPA 1 – Fire Code:** Provisions related to fire hydrants, access, and fire protection equipment maintenance.
- **NFPA 24 – Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances:** Requirements for hydrant placement, access, and protection.

- **NFPA 14 – Standard for the Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems**
- **NFPA 25 – Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems**

HYDRANT CLEARANCE GUIDELINES

To ensure hydrants remain visible and accessible for fire department use, the following clearances and conditions must be maintained at all times:

1. Required Clear Space

- A minimum 3-foot clear space must be maintained around the full circumference of every fire hydrant.
- Low-height groundcover or grass may be allowed within the 3-foot radius provided it does not obstruct visibility or access and does not impede hydrant operation.
- Fences, walls, or other fixed structures must maintain a 3-foot minimum clearance from the hydrant.

2. Vertical and Horizontal Positioning

- The hydrant flange must be installed at least 2 inches above finished grade or planter curb.
- Shrubs or plants adjacent to hydrants shall not exceed one-half the hydrant height to maintain clear visibility.
- Groundcover vegetation near hydrants shall not exceed 12 inches in height.

3. Visibility and Access

- Hydrants must remain clearly visible from the street and adjacent apparatus access routes.
- Plantings, signage, and landscape features must not obstruct the view of the hydrant from any direction.
- Hydrants located behind a sidewalk or planter curb must be placed no more than 2 feet back from the curb edge to maintain visibility.

4. Vehicle Protection

- When hydrants are subject to potential vehicle impact (e.g., within parking lots, adjacent to drive aisles, or near vehicular traffic), vehicle barriers must be installed.
- Barriers shall consist of 4-inch, concrete-filled steel posts, installed per standard detail, placed to protect the hydrant without restricting access.

5. Landscape Considerations

- Trees and shrubs must not encroach into the required 3-foot clearance zone.
- Large shrubs that block hydrant visibility from the street or fire apparatus access points are not permitted.
- Landscape berms, boulders, or decorative features shall not interfere with hydrant operation or firefighter access.

See attached image for further information.

HYDRANT CLEARANCE GUIDELINES

