





# City of Phoenix

FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FIRE PREVENTION SECTION

## Explanatory Policy – Outdoor Assembly Fire Lane Access

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Outdoor Assembly Fire Lane Access	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> May 1, 2020
<b>REFERENCES:</b> The Phoenix Fire Code (2018 Edition) Section 503.2.1	<b>REVIEW DATE:</b> July 2022
<b>APPROVED:</b> 	<b>APPROVED:</b> 
Michael Molitor, Deputy Chief	John Mertens, Fire Marshal

### Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for outdoor assembly fire lanes, emergency vehicle access and hostile vehicle mitigation. This policy will describe the alternative means to protect occupants at outdoor assembly special events. These alternative means must meet the requirements set by the Phoenix Fire Department, 2018 IFC with Phoenix Amendments, and the Phoenix Police Department.

### Background:

Outdoor assembly's and special events are becoming more prevalent in the City of Phoenix. These events, based on the design and layout, may operate in required fire lanes that access the structures ingress and egress, life safety systems and connections, or the event area public right of way. The Phoenix Fire Code section 503.2.1 requires a minimum unobstructed width of 20 ft. for fire lanes and emergency vehicle access. At times, hostile vehicle mitigation barriers will be required by law enforcement to protect the occupants of these outdoor assembly events when they occur in the public right of way. Barriers used to protect event occupants from hostile vehicles cannot obstruct required fire lanes and emergency access paths. Phoenix Fire Code section 511.1.3 requires all barriers in the path of a fire lane to comply with the minimum unobstructed width of 20 ft. requirement. At no time can the required fire lanes and emergency access paths be obstructed unless approved by the Fire Code Official.

### Policy:

The Phoenix Fire Department will allow alternative means to provide hostile vehicle mitigation barriers across fire lanes and emergency access paths. The Phoenix Fire Department will require a minimum 16 ft. wide access point between non-movable barriers. This 16 ft. wide access point may be closed by a vehicle that complies with Phoenix Police Department requirements. This vehicle shall meet the



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following requirements as well as those required by the Phoenix Police Department:

1. The vehicle shall be in good working condition.
2. The vehicle must be capable of operation without special knowledge or training.
3. The vehicle shall be staffed by security or responsible person/driver capable of operating it.
4. Operating the vehicle must be the security or responsible person/drivers only responsibility.
5. The staffed security or responsible person/driver and vehicle keys must be within 30 ft of the vehicle at all times.
6. The vehicle shall be easily moved and not attached to any fixed object or equipment.
7. The vehicle shall not require more than 30 seconds to move out of the fire or emergency access lane.

Serpentine type hostile vehicle mitigation using immovable barriers will require approval from the Phoenix Fire Department's Operations Section, and field testing with fire department's largest apparatus will be required. This alternative means must be approved by the Fire Code Official.

Water type vehicle barriers will not be permitted by the Phoenix Fire Department across emergency access paths and fire lanes.

The Phoenix Fire Department will, under certain circumstances that are approved by the Fire Code Official and the Phoenix Fire Department's Operations Division, allow chain link fencing to cross emergency vehicle and fire lane access. The Phoenix Fire Department will require a minimum 16 ft. wide access point between the chain link fence attached ends. The chain link fencing must meet the following requirements:

1. Fencing must be panel type 8 ft sections.
2. Must be attached on one end to allow to swing open.
3. Must be moveable by a single person.
4. Individual must be physically capable of opening the gate or fence sections without assistance.
5. Must be manned by security or responsible person at all times.
6. Opening the gate must be security or responsible persons only responsibility.
7. Opening cannot be locked, tied, zip tied or closed with anything that cannot be easily undone without the use of tools or a cutting tool.



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### **Permit Reference:**

105.6.36 Outdoor assembly event.

An operational permit is required to conduct an Outdoor assembly event where planned attendance exceeds 500 persons, or when 50 or more persons are in a confined area.

### **Code Reference:**

503.2.1 Dimensions.

Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet (6096 mm), exclusive of shoulders, except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.6 and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 14 feet (4267 mm).

### **511.1.3 Egress:**

Fire apparatus access / security gates or barriers shall be designed and installed such that they do not obstruct the egress or departure of emergency vehicles.