

TOWNSHIP OF SAUGATUCK

Alfred J. Ellingsen

Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator

3461 Blue Star Highway
Saugatuck, Michigan 49453
269/857-7721
Fax-269/857-4542

Home Office: 6295 116th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269/236-5788
Mon-Fri: 8 - 10 am

NOTICE

15 July 2002

To: All General Contractors and Homeowners engaged in new construction

Re: Fire access roads

The Saugatuck Township Zoning Ordinance, Section 3.01, states in part: “It is the intent of this Ordinance that for any use within the Township, consideration shall be given to the service capability of the local Fire Authority for that use, as determined by recommendations from the Fire Authority.... . No building or structure which the Building Official deems outside of the established fire control parameters, as furnished from time to time by the Fire Authority, shall be erected, moved, placed, reconstructed, extended, enlarged, or altered unless in strict conformance with the recommendations of the Fire Authority as determined from its investigation.”

The Township has recently adopted the 2000 International Fire Code and requirements for access roads are included within its specifications as summarized below:

Section 503.2 Specifications.

503.2.1 Dimensions. Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet except for approved gates ... and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than thirteen(13) feet six (6) inches.

503.2.2 Authority. The Code Official shall have the authority to increase access widths if above parameters are not adequate.

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

503.2.4 Turning radius. The required turning radius of a fire apparatus access road shall be determined by the Code Official.

503.2.5 Dead Ends. Dead end access roads greater than 150 feet in length shall be provided with an approved area for turning around fire apparatus.

503.2.7 Grade. The grade of the fire apparatus access road shall be within the limits established by the Code Official based upon the department's equipment.

503.4 Obstruction of fire apparatus roads. Fire access roads shall not be obstructed in any manner.

Please consider these parameters in the planning stage of your project. Be advised that these are stated requirements for the issuance of a Building Permit and an Occupancy Permit will not be issued unless your driveway meets the declared conditions. The Fire Chief or other responsible officer of the Fire District is the designated Code Official for enforcement of the Fire Code. Please contact the fire office at 269/857-3000 if you have questions about your access driveway or if it is of unusual configuration, excessively long, or of steep grade.

Be reminded also that the Township Zoning Ordinance has a new requirement for placement of driveways adjacent to lot lines. There is now a minimum five(5) foot setback from a driveway to the lot line.

Alfred J. Ellingsen