


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Niles R. Ford, PhD, Chief of Fire Department <i>NRF</i>	CITY OF BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Baltimore City Fire Department 401 East Fayette St. _21202		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #18-0259 Response to: Fire Code-Repealing Appendix D		

DATE: **June 14, 2018**

TO **The Honorable Bernard C. Young, President
And All Members of the Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 408**

For the purpose of amending the City Fire Code to repeal Appendix D {"Fire Apparatus Access Roads"} ; and providing for a special effective date.

Appendix D of the International Fire Code (IFC) provides additional guidance on the design and layout of fire apparatus roads and requirements for enforcement. The regulations regarding Fire Apparatus Access are found in Chapter 5 of the IFC. The City of Baltimore has adopted the 2015 edition of the IFC,; with the exception of Appendices A, C, I, J, K, L, and M.

The Baltimore City Fire Department does not recommend repealing Appendix D of the 2015 edition of the International Fire Code because Appendix D provides guidance for public safety and firefighting and rescue operations in all of the following areas:

- Allows for proper positioning of fire apparatus at fire scenes for fire suppression and rescue operations (options available for attacking a fire increase as more of a building’s perimeter are accessible to fire apparatus);
- Provides for adequate road widths, grade, clearances, lengths, turning radius, for fire apparatus in proximity to commercial buildings, hydrants, facilities, multi-family dwelling units, multi-family projects and one or two family residential dwellings for fire suppression and rescue activities;
- Allows for the provision of fire access routes to minimize factors that could inhibit access to buildings such as terrain, traffic, parking, barriers and vehicle congestion;
- Provides for a means for fire apparatus to turn around in various street designs including dead ends, cul-de-sacs and other configurations;
- Provides for road width for roads designated as fire apparatus access roads;
- Provides for the placement of NO PARKING and FIRE LANE signs on fire apparatus access roads;

- Provides for two means of access to all buildings and facilities exceeding 30 feet or three stories in height and buildings exceeding 62,000 square feet; and
- Prescribes gate sizes, locations, swing and locking specifications on fire access roads

In the Department's professional and technical opinion, we believe that the repeal of Appendix D of the IFC would have a detrimental impact on overall public safety. We also believe that the repeal of Appendix D would impact the operations not only of BCFD, but also law enforcement vehicles and other public services (such as trash trucks, public utility vehicles, etc.).

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