

## Who must comply?

All new construction or development that requires a County permit or other approval must comply. This includes homes and other buildings, parcel splits, Use Permits and subdivisions whether they are on a County maintained road or a private road.

## What if I can't meet the standard requirements?

Every effort must be made to meet the standards. If it is not possible, you will need to **request a deviation** from Chapter 15.30 Standards. An application must be submitted stating the specific modification requested and your reason and justification for the modification. In other words, you must tell us what can be done to provide the same practical effect. (A Fire Management Plan may be submitted.) A site map must accompany the application along with the fee of \$750.

Public Works will conduct a site visit and make recommendations. In some cases, we may consult with Amador Fire Protection District or other appropriate Agency. Any conditions we set must be met before any building or grading permits can final.

When all conditions are met, you will call for a final inspection. Any remainder of your \$750 deposit will be promptly refunded after the final inspection.



PUBLIC WORKS  
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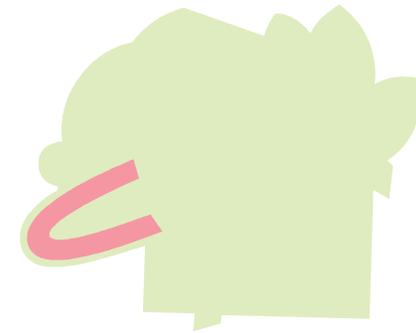
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AMADOR COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY

# Chapter 15.30 - Guide for Driveways

5/27/09



Understanding County  
Code Chapter 15.30  
Fire and Life Safety

CHAPTER 15.30

# Understanding 15.30 Requirements

## What is Chapter 15.30?

Chapter 15.30 is the County Fire and Life Safety Code. Compliance with the requirements in the code will help to insure the safety of your property and that of Emergency Response personnel and any others who may need to enter your property. Also, it will provide a means of evacuation in the event of a wildfire.

### *Please Note -*

Only the sections of Chapter 15.30 that relate to **driveways** will be explained in this brochure. This brochure is not intended to cover all scenarios. It is the responsibility of the property owner to obtain full requirements relative to their project from all necessary County Departments.

## Definitions -

A **Driveway** is an access to your property. This parcel can have no more than two houses, OR three dwelling units and any number of accessory buildings.

A **Road** is access to more than one parcel or to one parcel with commercial or industrial buildings or to a parcel with more than two houses or more than four dwelling units.

**Turnarounds** are required for dead-end driveways. They may be in the form of a hammerhead or a bulb and have a minimum turning radius of 40 feet from the centerline of driveway. This allows for safe change of direction for emergency equipment.

**Turnouts** are to be a minimum of 10 feet wide and 30 feet long with a 25 foot taper on each end, 80 feet total. This allows a safe place for vehicles to pass.

**Gates** should be two feet wider than the traffic lane, the minimum being 12 feet. They should be 30 feet back from the main road edge and open so that a vehicle can stop without obstructing traffic on the road.

**Bridges** must have signs that indicate weight limits, how many lanes wide, vertical clearance limitations and other appropriate signage. A one-lane bridge may be approved if it has unobstructed visibility from end to end and turnouts at each end.

**Dead-End** is a driveway or road that has only one point of ingress or egress. It must have a turnaround at the end. The maximum length of this type of driveway depends on zoning regardless of how many parcels it serves but in no case can it be longer than 5280 feet (1 mile). For example: a parcel zoned for less than one acre can have a driveway no longer than 800 feet. A parcel

zoned for 1 to 4.99 acres can have a driveway no longer than 1320 feet. A dead-end roadway exceeding 2640 feet shall have turnarounds located at approximately 1320 foot intervals.

## Driveway Standards

\*If your driveway is 150—800 feet long you must provide a turnout near the midpoint. If it is over 800 feet long you will need a turnout every 400 feet.

\*All driveways shall have at least 3 inches of compacted Class II aggregate base. Steeper driveways may require additional surfacing.

\*The grade of the driveway shall not exceed 16%.

\*No driveway shall have a centerline radius or curvature of less than fifty feet. (Additional shoulder width required.)

\*All driveways are to be a minimum of 10 feet wide and have a 15 feet unobstructed vertical clearance along the entire length and also must have a clearance from brush and vegetation (fuel modification) of 10 feet wide and 18 inches high at ground level.

\*All residential and commercial buildings must be no further than 50 feet from the access for emergency vehicles.

\*Driveway surfaces shall be capable of supporting a 40,000 pound load and built to provide unobstructed access to conventional drive vehicles including fire engines. Minimum curve radius requirements apply.

\*Buildings must have a permanently posted address at each driveway entrance and be visible from both directions.