

## **Chapter 215. FIRE LANES**

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Orange 2-1-1996. Amendments noted where applicable.]

### **GENERAL REFERENCES**

Vehicles and traffic — See Ch. [366](#).

#### **§ 215-1. Definitions.**

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

##### **FIRE LANE**

A designated, unobstructed passageway sufficient in size to permit free passage of fire and other emergency equipment from a public highway to all necessary areas or portions of any private or public property as hereinafter set forth.

#### **§ 215-2. Establishment of fire lanes.**

Whenever the Fire Marshal shall determine that the reasonable safety of persons occupying or using any premises, public or private, having a capacity of at least 15 persons, requires the establishment of a fire lane for orderly access of fire and other emergency equipment, the Fire Marshal shall establish such fire lane by written order and cause a public announcement of the establishment of such fire lane to be printed in a newspaper having substantial circulation in the community. Further, the Fire Marshal shall cause a copy of such order to be delivered, in person, or by registered mail, to the owner of any private land on which such fire lane is established, or to the agent of such owner.

#### **§ 215-3. Appeals.**

Whenever the Fire Marshal establishes a fire lane, he shall file a copy of his order with the Board of Selectmen and with the Orange Police Department. Any person aggrieved by such order may file, with the Board of Selectmen, within 10 days after the date of the publication of such order in the newspaper, a written notice of appeal setting forth the reasons for aggrievement. After hearing, the Board of Selectmen may affirm, modify or rescind such order.

#### **§ 215-4. Minimum requirements.**

Any such fire lane shall be a minimum of eight feet in width, unless otherwise specified by the Fire Marshal. Said fire lane shall be constructed of either asphalt or other suitable hard surface capable of supporting the weight of fire apparatus.

#### **§ 215-5. Delineation.**

Upon establishment of a fire lane, the Fire Marshal shall cause to be erected or installed, adequate signs and markings to delineate said fire lane. Signs and markings required on a privately owned premises shall be erected or installed by the owner of such premises who shall bear the total cost. Failure by such owner to erect or install the required signs and markings within 60 days from the date of such order shall cause the Fire Marshal to direct the Orange Highway Department to erect or install the required signs and markings at the cost to the owner of the premises, which may be billed for and collected as a municipal fee in the same manner as municipal taxes.

#### **§ 215-6. Installation of signs and markings.**

**A.** Signs:

- (1)** Signs shall be mounted on steel posts or as approved by the Fire Marshal and the Orange Traffic Authority.
- (2)** Signs shall be installed to a height of seven feet from the surface of pavement to the base of the sign.
- (3)** Signs on posts shall face both directions of travel (mounted back to back), or as approved by the Fire Marshal and the Traffic Authority.
- (4)** Distance between signs shall be a maximum of 50 feet.
- (5)** Sign lettering shall be clearly visible and shall read as follows: "NO PARKING - FIRE LANE," or as approved by the Fire Marshal and the Traffic Authority.

**B.** Lettering and markings on fire lane surface(s):

- (1)** Lettering on fire lane surfaces shall read as follows: "NO PARKING - FIRE LANE," or as approved by the Fire Marshal and Traffic Authority.
- (2)** Lettering shall be applied as to face in both directions of travel.
- (3)** Lettering shall be of sufficient size as to be readily visible from any vehicle traveling in the fire lane.
- (4)** Pavement marking lines to designate the width of the fire lane shall be a minimum of five inches in width and shall be permanently painted and weatherproofed.
- (5)** All markings and lettering shall be painted "traffic yellow" in color.

**§ 215-7. Preinstallation on-site inspection.**

An on-site inspection shall be made by the Fire Marshal and the owner of the premises, or the owner's agent, prior to the installation of said fire lane.

**§ 215-8. Maintenance.**

Whenever the Fire Marshal establishes a fire lane on premises open to the public, but not municipally owned, it shall thereafter be the responsibility of the owner to properly maintain the area so designated, and to keep and maintain it free of ice and snow and of any other material which would obstruct the use of said fire lane.

**§ 215-9. Parking or standing of vehicles in fire lanes.**

No person shall park, or permit to stand, a motor vehicle in a fire lane which has been established under this chapter, except when the operator remains in the vehicle and is in the actual process of picking up or discharging passengers. The registered owner of a motor vehicle shall be presumed to be the operator of such vehicle.

**§ 215-10. Penalties for parking or standing in fire lanes.**

Whenever a vehicle is found parked or standing in violation of § [215-9](#), a police officer, the Fire Marshal, or Fire Inspector for the town, shall serve upon the owner or operator of such vehicle, or place upon such vehicle, a \$25 parking ticket. If such ticket is paid within 48 hours, no further penalty shall be incurred. If such ticket is not paid within 48 hours, the penalty shall increase to \$50.

**§ 215-11. Penalties for other offenses.**

Any person violating the provisions of this chapter, except those set out in §§ [215-9](#) and [215-10](#), shall be fined not more than \$100 for each violation. Each day that a violation continues shall be considered to be a separate violation.

**§ 215-12. Towing of vehicles.**

Any motor vehicle found parked or standing in a fire lane which has been established in accordance with this chapter, may be towed upon the direction of a police officer to any public or private parking facility, and all expenses of such towing, and any subsequent storage, shall be borne by the registered owner of such vehicle.