

Town of Merrimac, Sauk County, Wisconsin
Ordinance #2021-40
An Ordinance relating to Emergency and Service Vehicles Access

The Town of Merrimac, Sauk County does hereby, in accordance with Wisconsin State Statutes, ordain as follows:

1.01 Title and Purpose: The title of this chapter is emergency and service vehicles Access. The purpose of this Ordinance is to assure adequate access is provided for emergency and service vehicles throughout the Town.

1.02 Authority: The Town of Merrimac has the authority to enact this ordinance under its village powers under §60.22, Wis. Stats.

1.03 Definitions: The following words and phrases shall have the designated meaning unless a different meaning is expressly provided, or the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Emergency Vehicles means any vehicle owned and operated by the Town of Merrimac or other emergency response organization dispatched to an emergency situation within the Town of Merrimac.

Service Vehicles means any government or private vehicles owned and operated by authorized agents of the Town of Merrimac for services provided to properties with easement rights such as garbage collection, snow removal, maintenance and general upkeep of the town.

Fire Chief means the Chief of the Town of Merrimac Fire Department or other person authorized by the Fire Chief.

Fire Lane means the area within any public right-of-way, easement, or on private property designated for the purpose of permitting fire trucks and other firefighting or emergency equipment to use, travel upon, and park.

1.04 Driveways:

(A) All private roads and driveways must be maintained clear of trees, natural objects and structures to a minimum width of fourteen feet and a minimum height of fifteen feet.

(B) All shared private roads and driveways must be accessible for emergency and town vehicles on official business.

(C) Driveways to vacant structures with activated emergency alarm systems must be kept clear of snow. The inability of the Fire Department to access structures in response to automated emergency alarms could result in forfeitures for non-compliance with this provision.

(D) All private roads and driveways shall be maintained with a paved or gravel surface sufficient to support vehicular traffic.

1.05 Fire Lanes for Commercial Structures:

(A) ESTABLISHING AND MARKING FIRE LANES:

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- (1) The Fire Chief may establish fire lanes around facilities which are by their, size, location, design, or contents warrant access which exceeds that normally provided by the proximity of existing public roadways.
 - (2) Fire lanes shall provide access to at least two sides of all buildings 150 to 200 feet long. For buildings over 200 feet in length, fire lanes shall provide access to four sides of the building or group of buildings. Fire lanes shall be at least 30 feet in width with the road edge closed to the building at least ten feet from the building. Any dead-end fire lane more than 300 feet long shall include a turnaround at the closed end at least 90 feet in diameter.
 - (3) Fire lanes shall provide a minimum, unobstructed width of 30 feet and vertical clearance of 15 feet.
 - (4) Fire lanes shall be identified by a 4-inch-wide line and block letters 2 feet high, painted in the lane, at 50 foot or such other intervals which the Fire Chief determines to be reasonable, stating "Emergency Vehicles Only" color to be determined by the Fire Chief, and by posting of signs stating "Emergency Vehicles Only-No Parking". Signs shall be posted on or immediately next to the curb line, or on the building. Signs shall be 12" x 18" and shall have letters and background of contrasting colors, readily readable from at least 50 feet. Signs shall be posted at a minimum no further than 50 feet apart, unless a greater distance is deemed reasonable by the Fire Chief, nor shall they be more than 4 feet from the ground unless a greater height is determined necessary by the Fire Chief.
 - (5) Where fire lanes connect to town roads, county highways, state highways or parking lots, adequate clearances and turning radii shall be provided. All proposed plans shall have Fire Chief approval.
- (B) FIRE LANES AS PART OF DRIVEWAYS AND/OR PARKING AREAS: The Fire Chief may require that areas specified for use as driveways or private thoroughfares shall not be used for parking. These areas, when specified, shall be marked as specified in §8.05(A)(4).
- (C) RESTRICTIONS IN FIRE LANES: Except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the direction of a police officer or fire official or traffic control sign, signal, or device, no person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle, whether occupied or not at any place where fire lane signs are posted, except:
- (1) Momentarily to pick-up or discharge a passenger or passengers; or
 - (2) Delivery vehicle for the purpose of, and while actually engaged in loading or unloading.
- (D) FIRE LANES, EXISTING BUILDINGS: The Fire Chief may require fire lanes to be constructed and maintained when the Fire Chief determines that inaccessibility for fire apparatus exists around existing buildings or structures.
- 1.06 NUISANCE, INJUNCTION.** The repeated violation of this ordinance is hereby declared to be a nuisance. In addition to any other relief provided by this ordinance, the Town of Merrimac may apply for an injunction to prohibit the continuation of any violation of this ordinance. Such

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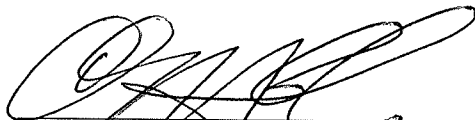
application for relief may include seeking a temporary restraining order, temporary injunction, or permanent injunction.


1.07 ENFORCEMENT AND FORFEITURES: It shall be the duty of the Town Board to enforce this ordinance. Any person who violates any provisions of this chapter may be subject to a forfeiture of \$50.00 plus court costs for the first violation, \$100.00 plus court costs for the second violation and \$200.00 plus court costs for all subsequent violations. Failure to come into compliance after 10 days shall also constitute a new violation each day thereafter


1.08 SEVERABILITY CLAUSE: If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

This ordinance shall become effective September 2, 2021 and published by the town clerk in accordance with s. 60.80, Wis. Stats.


Adopted this 1st day of September, 2021.


Charlie Hall, Interim-Town Chair


Tim Healy, Interim-Supervisor


John Gaedke, Supervisor

ATTEST:


Tim McCumber
Town Administrator & Clerk – Treasurer

Posted in Town: August 11, 2021

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