

# Help us to help you in an emergency

Every property is different, make  
sure emergency services can get to  
your buildings and water supply in  
an emergency.



[cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)

3.5m wide driveway surface



0.5m clear on each side

# Can emergency vehicles

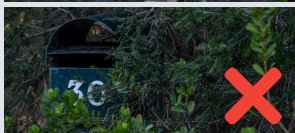
**Fire trucks are large, heavy vehicles that need to quickly locate and access properties and water.**

The information in this brochure can help you understand how you can make a difference in an emergency.

## Property Identification

Your house or property number should be large and clearly visible from the road, day or night.

Clear numbers make it easier for emergency services to find where you are and attend to your emergency as quickly as possible.



## Clear access to your property

### Driveway size & clearances

To allow for a fire truck to get into your property:

- Minimum **3.5 metres** wide driveway surface, with **0.5 metres** clearance on each side free from bushes, gate posts, and other structures.
- Overhead clearance to a height of **4 metres**.

# get to you in time?

## Driveways longer than 30 metres

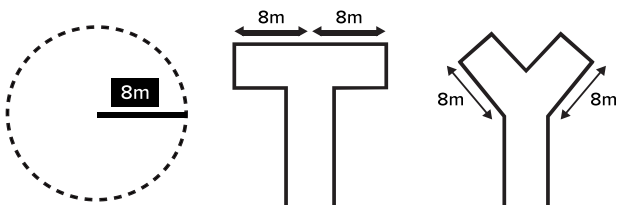
If the driveway from the road to the building or static water supply, including gates, bridges and culverts, is longer than **30 metres**, it should:

- Have a load limit of at least **15 tonnes**,
- and be of all-weather construction.

## Driveways longer than 100 metres

Near the building or static water supply you should provide either a:

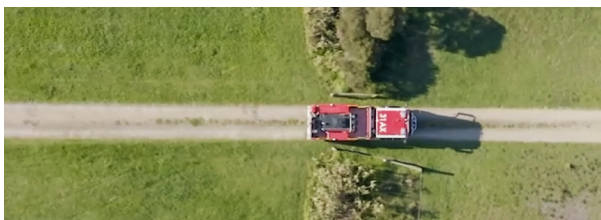
- turning circle with an **8 metres** radius, or
- driveway encircling the building, or
- T or Y turning area with each leg at least **8 metres** long and **4 metres** driveable width.



## Driveways longer than 200 metres

You are required to provide passing bays every **200 metres**. Passing bays should:

- be **20 metres** long, and
- have a driveable width of **6 metres**.



# Gates

Always make sure your gates are in working order and can be quickly opened for emergency access to your property.

## Electric gates

Ensure your gate has a manual over-ride feature so your property is accessible if there is a fire or other emergency.



## Manual locking gates

Padlocks and bolt locks on front gates make access difficult, consider other options so that emergency services can access your property quickly during an emergency.



## Street access

In urban areas, narrow streets can make it difficult for fire trucks and emergency vehicles to access homes quickly — especially during a fire. To ensure access to properties and fire hydrants is always available:

- Try to leave about 4 metres clearance between parked cars on either side of the road.
- Be mindful when parking opposite other vehicles, particularly on tight roads. Blocking access could delay emergency services — putting lives and property at risk.
- Consider parking on the same side of the road as other parked cars, leaving one side clear.



# Access to water

Quick access to a water supply is critical during an emergency.

## Fire hydrant access

Fire hydrants are marked by a white post with a red top and blue reflectors. There will also be a blue cat's eye reflector and sometimes painted white arrows on the road.

Never park within **1 metre** of hydrants or their markers.

## Fire hydrant maintenance

If you have a fire hydrant out the front of your house, it is important to maintain it so fire fighters can find and quickly access it.

- Keep the grass trimmed around the hydrant and marker.
- Report missing or damaged markers to your local council.
- Report any leaks to your local water authority.



For more information visit  
[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/access](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/access)

In an emergency call Triple Zero (000)