

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Town of Saint Germain, Vilas County

Code of Ordinances
Chapter 8 – Emergency Vehicles Access
Revised December 9, 2019

8.01 TITLE AND PURPOSE: The title of this chapter is Emergency Vehicles Access. The purpose of this ordinance is to assure adequate access is provided for emergency vehicles throughout the Town.

8.02 AUTHORITY: The town of Saint Germain has the authority to enact this ordinance under its village powers under §60.22, Wis. Stats. and the specific authority under §349.13, Wis. Stats.

8.03 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 St. Germain Fire Department or other emergency response organization dispatched to an emergency situation within the Town.

Fire Chief means the Chief of the St. Germain 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.

Town: The Town of Saint Germain in Vilas County, Wisconsin.

Town Board: The Town Board of Supervisors

Wis. Stats. means the Wisconsin Statutes, including successor provisions of cited statutes.

8.04 DRIVEWAYS:

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

(B) All private roads and driveways in winter use must be maintained accessible for emergency vehicles to a minimum width of fourteen feet.

(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.

8.05 FIRE LANES FOR COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES:

(A) ESTABLISHING AND MARKING FIRE LANES:

- (1) The Fire Chief may establish fire lanes around facilities which 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.

8.06 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.

8.07 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.

8.08 EFFECTIVE DATE: This ordinance rescinds and replaces the Town of St. Germain Fire Lanes ordinance and is effective on publication or posting. The Town Clerk shall properly post or publish this ordinance as required under §60.80, Wis. Stats.

Adopted this 9th day of December 2019



Tom Christensen
Town Chairman

Attest:



Tom Martens
Town Clerk