

TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN
FIRE HEADQUARTERS / 11 BROADWAY
NORTH HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06473

Chief Paul Januszewski
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Dear Parents:

The North Haven Fire Department would like to remind all parents, staff and visitors not to park in any fire lanes located at any North Haven public schools. There were many complaints received during the last academic school year regarding fire lane parking violations and multiple incidents in which FD units responded and were impeded by illegal motorist parking. Over the summer, fire lanes at all North Haven public schools were re-painted and appropriate signage was added where necessary to alleviate any further confusion. This letter is being provided as a courtesy prior to enforcement.

No matter how quick the trip or important the visit, it is never OK to park in a fire lane. Immediate pick up and drop off of students within a fire lane is acceptable only if the driver remains with the vehicle and the student(s) are entering or exiting the motor vehicle. Parking in a fire lane and waiting for students is NOT acceptable. Additionally, parking in a fire lane is not allowed during school related or sporting events at any time including week nights and weekends. Take the extra time to find a parking space as parking tickets will be issued to those violators found parking in any fire lane. Such persons are subject to a fine of up to \$100 without warning. The registered owner of the vehicle shall be presumed to be the operator of such vehicle.

During an emergency event, it is essential that emergency vehicles are provided with unobstructed access leading to and around the school building. Any obstructions can delay or even prevent adequate emergency operations from proceeding. Emergency events are unpredictable and could occur at any time. Depending on the nature of the incident, multiple resources may be required to respond including police, fire and/or emergency medical services.

Fire lanes are identified by a continuous yellow stripe on the pavement and in some cases extend into the parking lot or driveway. Where needed, fire lanes are also identified with signage to further depict the area as a fire lane. Be sure to check for one or the other should you question the existence of a fire lane.

Some frequently asked questions regarding fire lanes have been outlined on the reverse side of this letter for a better understanding.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in keeping safety paramount for all.

Respectfully,

Paul Januszewski
Fire Chief / Fire Marshal

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FIRE LANES

Frequently Asked Questions.....

Q. How are Fire Lanes determined?

- A. The Town of North Haven identifies Fire Lanes in accordance with Town Ordinance Chapter 119. The Fire Marshal defines Fire Lanes based upon the need for free passage of fire and other emergency equipment from a public highway to all necessary areas or portions of any private or public property.

Q. Why are Fire Lanes so important?

- A. Fire apparatus are large in size and difficult to navigate at times within tight areas. The turning radius on fire apparatus is quite significant and the area needed to operate adjacent to a building can exceed 20'. Consider a ladder truck that must deploy stabilizers from both sides to properly operate or compartment doors that swing open further than typical car doors. While an area is sometimes obvious as to why it has been marked a Fire Lane, the underlying reasons may not be so apparent to the untrained eye. In some cases sprinkler connections are nearby, a hydrant may need to be accessible or at times what appears to be grass around the perimeter of a school is actually an access way intended for fire apparatus.