

# Access Way Maintenance - DRAFT

The goal of Access Way Maintenance is the MITIGATION of any Access Way ANOMALY that would impede fire and rescue personnel and equipment or measurably increase fire and rescue response times thereby inhibiting the effectiveness and/or the safe and efficient movement of fire personnel, equipment and medical patients.

Priority of maintenance and/or improvement will be given to Access Ways based upon the expected frequency to be traversed by emergency response teams. This is primarily a function of identifying those Access Ways that serve the greatest number of people and/or properties.

Ultimately every Access Way shall have an action plan to achieve the following:

Under normal conditions, the following is considered a MINIMUM STANDARD for the main travelled surface of all access ways:

- No Standing Water
- Minimum number of minimal potholes
- Minimum undulations
- Minimum washboarding
- Safe clearance of ANY natural or man made obstructions

Wherever possible, ACCESS WAYS shall be lightly crowned, reasonably smooth surfaced, with natural drainage or constructed manmade drainage swales and free from ALL natural and manmade obstructions.

Wherever possible, DRAINAGE will be directed toward naturally existing LOW spots off the main travelled surface of the access way where traditional PERCOLATION RATES are improved.

Exceptions to the above will include Access Ways with a naturally steep grade, Access Ways not wide enough to effectively form a crown, or any Access Way with significant easement violations/encroachments. Solutions need to be developed for those exceptions that defeat our goals.

It is recognized that under extreme conditions, including but not limited to torrential rains, hurricanes, extreme tides, tsunamis etc., for a period of time an Access Way may fall below minimum standards. It is the goal of Access Way Maintenance to regain those MINIMUM STANDARDS at the first reasonable opportunity.

Our roads were NEVER DESIGNED to double as drainage RETENTION PONDS. To do so only exposes our Fire and Rescue personnel and equipment to an unsafe, inefficient and destructive environment. The financial cost to the fire district for this exposure is significant.

For safety purposes, the UCFRD is currently requesting a MINIMUM height and width clearance of 15' be perpetually maintained throughout all Access Ways.

All final decisions regarding the above matters rest solely with the duly elected Fire Board of Commissioners of the Upper Captiva Fire and Rescue District.