



OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

VEHICLE IMPACT PROTECTION INFORMATION BULLETIN

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide guidance on vehicle impact protection requirements to safeguard critical fire protection equipment, utilities, pedestrian areas, and buildings from vehicular damage. Proper implementation of these standards reduces the risk of fire protection system failure and enhances public safety.

APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS

2018 IFC – Section 312: Vehicle Impact Protection

- 312.1 General - Vehicle impact protection required by this code shall be provided by posts or other approved physical barriers that comply with this section.
- 312.2 Posts - Guard posts shall comply with all of the following requirements:
 1. Constructed of steel not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in diameter and concrete filled.
 2. Spaced not more than 4 feet (1219 mm) between posts on center.
 3. Set not less than 3 feet (914 mm) deep in a concrete footing of not less than a 15-inch (381 mm) diameter.
 4. Set with the top of the posts not less than 3 feet (914 mm) above ground.
 5. Located not less than 3 feet (914 mm) from the protected object.

COMMON APPLICATION AREAS

Vehicle impact protection shall be evaluated and installed at, but not limited to, the following locations:

- Fire department connections (FDCs)
- Fire sprinkler risers and PIVs
- Gas meters and other utility connections
- Standpipe hose outlets
- Hydrants located near traffic or parking areas
- Emergency exits and pedestrian areas
- Mobile food unit setups
- Outdoor generators, transformers, and control panels
- At the discretion of the Fire Marshal or Building Official.

DESIGN AND INSTALLATION CONSIDERATIONS

- Protection devices must be designed in accordance with site-specific hazards, vehicle traffic flow, and exposure to public roads or drive aisles.
- Substitutions to steel posts (e.g., pre-cast barriers, planters) may be accepted with engineering analysis or manufacturer specifications demonstrating code compliance.
- Existing installations not meeting current standards may be evaluated for equivalency or required to be retrofitted at the discretion of the Fire Marshal or Building Official.
- Prior to installing any vehicle impact protection posts or barriers, **you must contact Idaho DigLine by calling 811**. This free service ensures that underground utilities are properly located and marked, preventing potential damage, service disruptions, or serious injuries.

INSPECTION CHECKLIST

During review or inspection, the following must be verified:

- Proper spacing, depth, and height of posts.
- Barriers are installed per approved plans and code dimensions.
- Barriers are not compromised (e.g., bent posts, spalling bases).
- Barriers are free of obstructions and clearly visible.
- Where alternatives are used, supporting documentation is on file.



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ENFORCEMENT

Failure to provide compliant vehicle impact protection may result in:

- Delayed certificate of occupancy;
- Delayed approval of licensing;
- Correction notices or stop work orders;
- Violation citations under IFC 312 and applicable local ordinances.

EXAMPLES

