What is a Swept Path Analysis?

A swept path analysis is used to confirm that the proposed emergency access route is functional for emergency response vehicles. The swept path analysis simulates the turning movements of the model vehicle, and is used to ensure that the length of the access route is unobstructed.

When is a Swept Path Analysis Required?

It is strongly recommended that all Major Development Permit Applications include a Swept Path Analysis as part of the Fire Access Plan. Including a Swept Path Analysis with your DP submission package supports a timely review by Fire Rescue Services. A Swept Path Analysis may not be required when the proposed emergency access is a straight run with only one simple 90 degree turn.

What needs to be shown?

The analysis should show the turning movements of the Fire Rescue Model Vehicle (inset), along with the swept path encountered by vehicle overhangs. It should clearly show that there are no obstacles or obstructions exist along the along the vehicle’s movement path. Please ensure ALL of the following items are addressed:

- Parked vehicles must be considered/shown on narrow roads
- If multiple paths cross each other, please use different colours for tires/overhang to improve readability
- The path must show continuous movement; no “corners” should be seen on the tire/overhang trajectories
- Carefully review the trajectories – only submit a swept path analysis that confirms unobstructed travel

The analysis must use the Edmonton Fire Services vehicle dimensions (inset); include an annotation on the drawing indicating the model inputs used (shown in example).

For more information on emergency access routes, please refer to sections 3.2.5.5 and A-3.2.5.6(1) of the Alberta Building Code.

A-3.2.5.6(1) Fire Department Access Route. The design and construction of fire department access routes involves the consideration of many variables, some of which are specified in the requirements in the Code. All these variables should be considered in relation to the type and size of fire department vehicles available in the municipality or area where the building will be constructed. It is appropriate, therefore, that the local fire department be consulted prior to the design and construction of access routes.