Section 3307.1 Required Access

Question: This section requires either temporary or permanent roads capable of supporting vehicle loading under all weather conditions. What are the minimum features needed to meet this requirement for the City of Mesa Fire Department?

Interpretation: The access road shall be a minimum of 20 feet wide and shall be an all-weather driving surface, graded to drain standing water and engineered to bear the imposed loads of fire apparatus (78,000 lbs/24,000lbs front axle, 54,000 rear axle) when roads are wet.

For example, a minimum of six (6) inches of ABC compacted to 90% over an approved base would meet the requirement.

The access road shall be extended to within 200 feet of any combustible materials and/or any location on the jobsite where any person(s) shall be working for a minimum of four (4) continuous hours in any day. A clearly visible sign marked "Fire Department Access", in red letters, shall be provided at the entry to the access road.

All open trenches shall have steel plates capable of maintaining the integrity of the access road design when these trenches cross an access road. These access roads may be temporary or permanent. This policy applies only during construction and/or demolition. Permanent access per the Mesa Fire Code shall be in place prior to any final inspection or certificate of occupancy.

Reasoning: Fire apparatus access roads are essential during construction to allow emergency response to the site for both fire and medical emergencies. Access roads shall be in place prior to the start of vertical construction. See Section 1410. It is important to develop access roads at an early stage of construction to allow for fire department access to the site in the case of fire or injury.

SECTION 3307-FIRE DEPARTMENT SITE ACCESS AND WATER SUPPLY
3307.1 Required access. *Approved* vehicle access for firefighting shall be provided to all construction or demolition sites. Vehicle access shall be provided to within 100 feet (30 480mm) of temporary of permanent fire department connections. Vehicle access shall be provided by either temporary or permanent roads, capable of supporting vehicle loading under all weather conditions. Vehicle access shall be maintained until permanent fire apparatus access roads are available.

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CHAPTER 33
FIRE SAFETY DURING CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION
CHAPTER 3307.1 ACCESS FOR FIRE FIGHTING

MESA FIRE AND MEDICAL
DEPARTMENT DETAIL

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