Clear space around hydrant: A 3-foot clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants, except as otherwise required or approved.

Care must be taken so that fences, utility poles, barricades and other obstructions do no prevent access to and operation of fire hydrant. A clear space of 3 feet must be maintained around hydrants (see drawing) to allow easy hose connections to the hydrant and the efficient use of hydrant wrenches, spanner wrenches and other tools needed by the apparatus engineer. This section is not intended to allow any of the obstructions described in Section 507.4.4 to exist as long as they are kept 3 feet from the hydrant, FDC or valve.

Though not specifically mentioned in this section, it is also important that hydrants be installed with the center of the outlet cap nuts at least 18 inches above adjoining grade to accommodate the free turning of the hydrant wrench when removing the caps (see NFPA 24, Chapter 7, for further information).

