

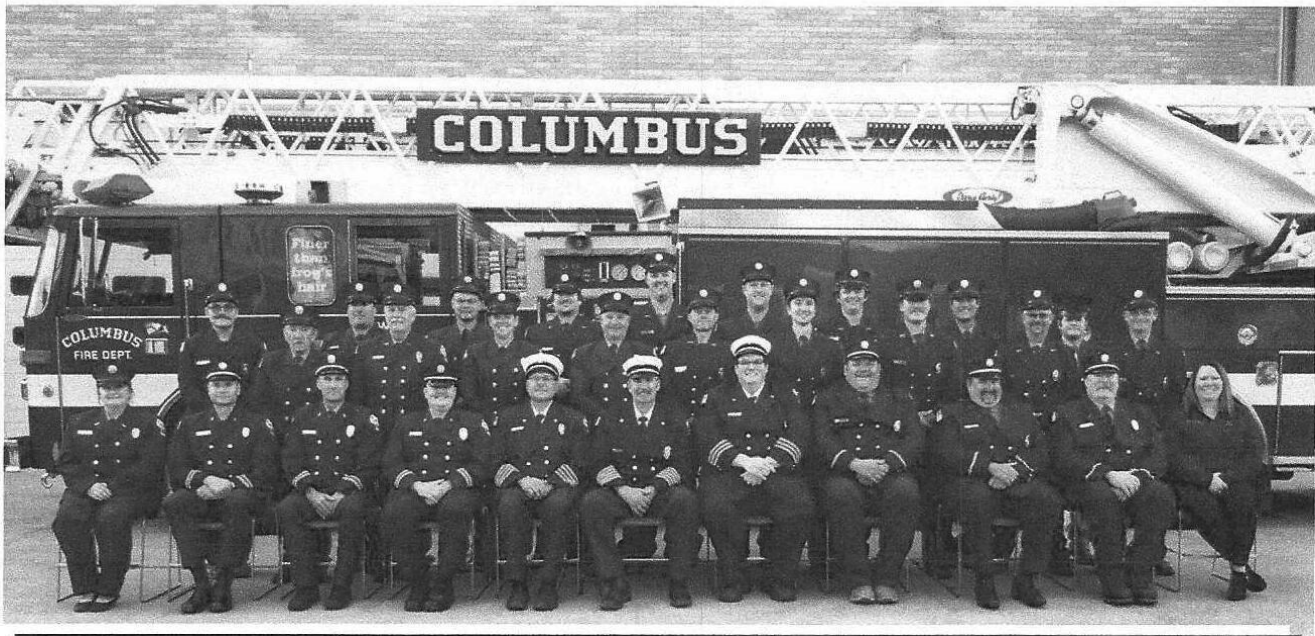


# CITY OF COLUMBUS FIRE DEPARTMENT



## Will A Fire Truck Fit Down Your Driveway?

In the event of a fire in your area, firefighters may need to reach your home. If firefighters cannot safely access your home, they will find an alternative way to get to you that may take longer – and when fighting fire, every second counts.



**COLUMBUS FIRE DEPARTMENT  
COLUMBUS, WI**

2025

### Help Firefighters Reach You

You are the first line of defense when it comes to helping your home survive a fire. To enable firefighters and other emergency vehicles to locate and reach your residence quickly it's important to establish a safe route with adequate driveway access.



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Follow these guidelines to prepare your driveway for emergency access that could make all the difference in reducing damage to your property during a fire or other emergency event.

- Position your address sign to be visible from the road from either direction and cut back vegetation around the sign.
- Ensure street signs are clearly visible with road names located at intersections leading to your home.
- Clear trees, branches or brush from your driveway.
- Minimum driveway surface width, 12 feet.
- Minimum width clearance 24 feet.
- Minimum height clearance 20 feet.
- Maximum grade 10%.
- Driveways should have a 25-foot minimum radius turnaround, or some other method used to allow emergency vehicles to turn around.
- At least one 40 feet in length and 18 feet in width segment of road surface should be provided for each 500 feet of driveway length to provide for safe passage of meeting emergency vehicles.
- Curves in the driveway should have an inside radius of no less than 36 feet.
- Ensure your driveway's surface is firmly packed and can support the weight of emergency vehicles even in the spring when the ground is soft.
- Fire trucks typically weigh between 20,000 to 40,000 pounds, with larger models like aerial ladder trucks reaching up to 70,000 pounds. For driveway support, ensure the pavement is designed to handle at least 80,000 pounds, as some fire trucks can exceed this weight when fully loaded.
- Remove gates, fence posts or other obstructions that could restrict access. (Or buy a Knox Box <https://www.knoxbox.com/Industries/Fire-Departments> and install at the gate, then contact the Fire Chief to put access keys in the Knox Box and lock it if gated).

Any Questions, feel free to contact me at [shazeltine@columbuswi.gov](mailto:shazeltine@columbuswi.gov), or the office at 920-623-5914 or cell 608-566-8134.

Sincerely,

Scott Hazeltine – Fire Chief  
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