

Fire Department Access:

Kansas Statutes direct the Office of the State Fire Marshal Office and the Prevention Division to focus on the regulation of exits, fire alarm systems, and building suppression devices within buildings where people congregate. This is accomplished through regulation, certification, education, inspection, and enforcement. State and local standards are similar, but are enforced at different levels.

In many municipalities across the state, owners constructing new buildings are given site conditions or requirements at the onset of a project, which address fire department access. Some of these requirements can be found in Section 905 of the IBC, 2006 edition. Acceptable fire department access roads, adequate water supplies, and hydrants are provided, or the owner may provide the building with an automatic fire sprinkler system. However, we are not aware of many successful attempts to retroactively apply these requirements to existing buildings and sites.

Obviously, it is in the best interest of the facility and the community to provide for emergency services access wherever possible. This is, however, a local issue best handled by local units of government.