Fire Lane Ordinance

Torch Lake Township

PP Ordinance No. 2021-03

AN ORDINANCE TO SECURE THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND GENERAL WELFARE BY REGULATING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ENFORCEMENT OF FIRE LANES IN TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Torch Lake Township Ordains:

**Section 1. Title**

This Ordinance shall be known as the Torch Lake Township Fire Lane Ordinance.

**Section 2. Definitions**

FIRE LANE- Any means of access, public or private, improved or unimproved, that is essential or designated for use by emergency vehicles by the Fire Department.

**Section 3. Designation of Fire Lanes**

Designation of the fire lanes shall be made by posting signs which read “FIRE LANE, NO PARKING, FINES OF $500 AND TOWING EXPENSES, PAID BY VEHICLE OWNER” The Fire Department shall determine when a fire lane is necessary to protect the human life and property, on public or private lands, or on public or private roads. All signs shall be posted and maintained by the property owner.

**Section 4. Sign Requirements**

Required signs shall not be less than 100 square inches in area. All lettering of signs shall be red letters laced on a white background. The words “FIRE LANE” shall not be less than two inches in height per letter. Signs shall be placed at both ends of the fire lane and at intervals along said fire lane not to exceed 100 feet. Sign height shall be a minimum of 4 feet and a maximum of 6 feet.

**Section 5. Parking of Non-Emergency Vehicles Prohibited**

Parking of all non-emergency vehicles is prohibited in all designated fire lanes.

**Section 6. Enforcement**

The Fire Chief or his designated agents of the Torch Lake Township Fire Department, officers of the Antrim County Sheriff’s Department, or other individuals appointed by the Township Board, are designated to enforce this Ordinance.

**Section 7. Violations and Penalties**

Any person who shall permit a vehicle owned, or operated by him or under his control, to park or stand in a fire lane established pursuant to this ordinance or place his vehicle in such manner as to impair or interfere with the operation of firefighting equipment, shall be fined a sum not to exceed $500 plus the cost of prosecution and towing expenses. Each violation shall constitute a separate offense.

Any person who shall violate any other provision of this ordinance shall also be fined a sum not to exceed $500 plus the cost of prosecution. Each violation shall constitute a separate offense.

**Section 8. Severability**

Should any section, clause or provision of this Ordinance be declared by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

**Section 9. Effective Date**

This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days following publication.