Did You Know?

I'm sure you are aware the City of Three Forks has an array of general traffic and parking regulations. Some of these are simple like, "Don't use a city street to work on your vehicle," "No person shall park any vehicle for the sole purpose of displaying it for sale [on a public street]," or, "Don't use a city street just for storage." The laws are in place to keep the public right-of-way clear for moving vehicles (traffic) and provide parking to the residents and businesses nearby.

However, did you know you are not supposed to park on a crosswalk, or even within 20-feet of a crosswalk? You are not supposed to block a sidewalk, walkway or trail....or even park alongside any excavation...did you know that? When I sit back and contemplate these they do make sense to me: these laws provide safety. PERIOD. But what do parking regulations have to do with the safety for your home?

Three Forks Ordinance #7-2-6C & D states that no person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle (except for emergencies) within 15-feet of any intersection or within 15-feet of any fire hydrant.

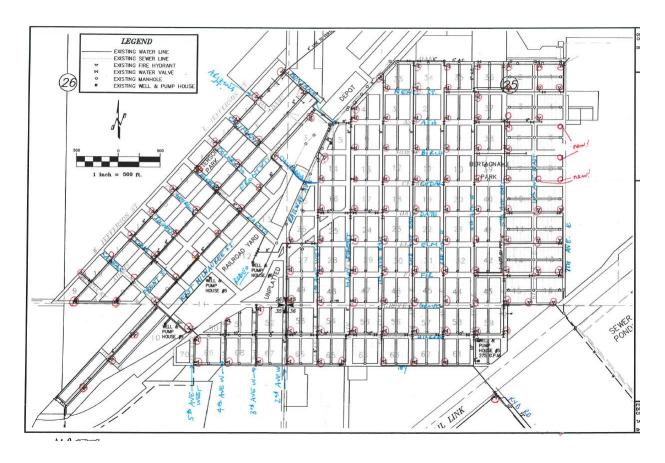
After picking up the mail today, I skimmed through a magazine addressed to the former TF Police Chief called *American Police Beat*. (Check it out here: https://apbweb.com/) This is actually a fascinating magazine sharing education through various law enforcement agencies, and promoting safety to law enforcement officers and the general public. While flipping through the magazine I came across this picture which I just had to share with you.



Yikes – even if I was just "running in real quick" I wouldn't be going anywhere now! Was the window broke out? Call me crazy but I am would put all my chips on RED for "the Fire Department is not liable to repair the window".

The article is just a gentle reminder to not park in front of a hydrant. This photo captured firefighters responding to a residential structure fire. This was the closest hydrant to the blaze, but every inch counts in order for the hose to reach the fire.

Three Forks' hydrants are about 300-feet apart, one per block minimum and usually located on the southwest corner of the block (locations circled in red in the picture below). Even though we do not have curbs on every corner painted red (many Three Forks streets do not have curbs at all) the fire hydrants are painted a bright red to visually remind you not to park here. This is not just for the safety of pedestrians crossing the streets at the sidewalk areas, but so our volunteer firefighters can easily hookup a hose and start spraying water to save your burning structure.



SO, PLEASE REMEMBER:

Keep the intersections clear for at least 15-feet. A number of good reasons come to mind:

- So this doesn't happen to your vehicle,
- So that your home/structure can be saved,
- Oncoming traffic has a clear line of sight for other vehicles traveling, and
- To provide pedestrians safe access at each intersection.

And since we are gently reminding you of Ordinance #7-2-6C & D, here are some other general parking regulations to refresh yourself on:

7-2-6: PARKING PROHIBITED IN SPECIFIC PLACES: 🗣 🖃



No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic, or in compliance with the directions of a police or traffic control officer or highway patrolman in any of the following places:

- A. On a sidewalk, walkways and trails.
- B. In front of a public or private driveway.
- C. Within an intersection or within fifteen feet (15') of an intersection.
- D. Within fifteen feet (15') of a fire hydrant.
- E. On a crosswalk, or within twenty feet (20') of a crosswalk when marked by painted lines and designated by a sign.
- F. Within twenty feet (20') of a crosswalk at an intersection.
- G. Within twenty feet (20') of the approach to any traffic signal, stop sign or other traffic control device located at the side of
- H. Alongside or opposite any street excavation or construction when stopping or parking would obstruct the flow of traffic; or leave less than twenty feet (20') of available roadway from the free movement of traffic.
- I. On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge of a curb, roadway or street.
- J. Upon any bridge or elevated structure within the City.
- K. At any place where official signs prohibit stopping. (Ord. 268, 2-11-2003)

To learn more visit our website at www.threeforksmontana.us or give us a call at 406-285-3431.