

FIGURE 1  
Uncontrolled

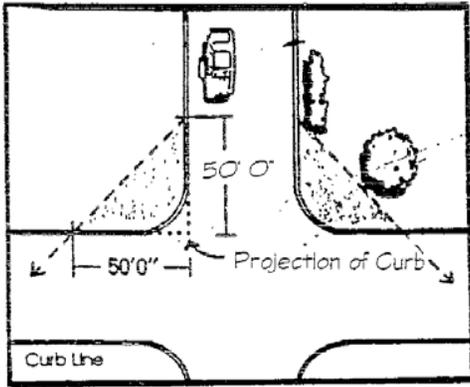


FIGURE 3  
Fully controlled

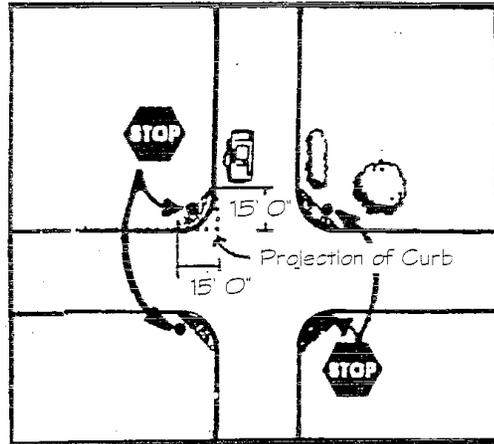


FIGURE 2  
Partially controlled  
(stop or yield)

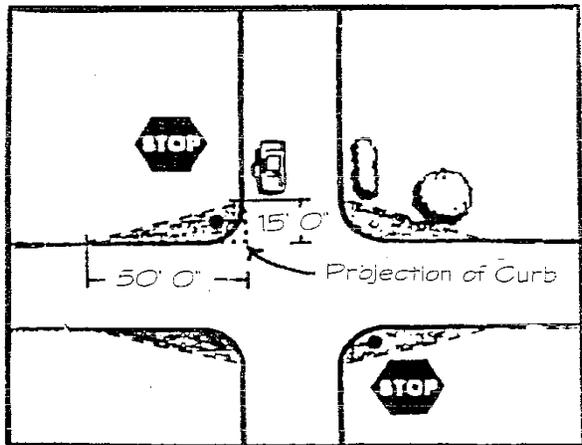
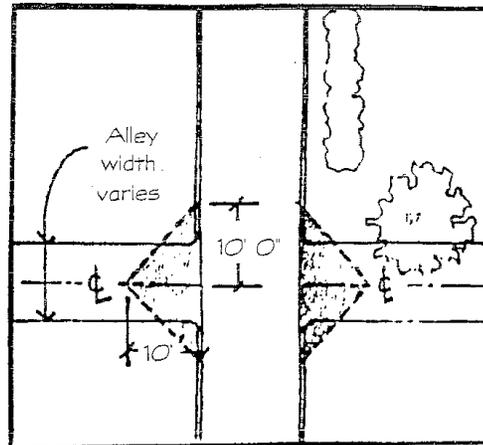


FIGURE 4  
Alley intersection



# City of Helena

## Sight Obstruction Information

If you are a corner property owner or resident...

*This information is for you!*

In an effort to reduce traffic accidents, the Helena Building Division urges you to evaluate and maintain adequate visibility at your corner. Sight obstructions at intersections are a major contributing factor to accidents. This frequent type of traffic accident results in more injuries and property damage than other accidents in urban areas.

Sight obstructions are hazardous for everyone using our streets and sidewalks, particularly children playing or riding bicycles.

Eliminating sight obstructions will greatly improve the safety and traffic flow in your neighborhood and may decrease your personal liability for injuries or costs associated with accidents, which may occur at your corner.

### WHAT IS A SIGHT OBSTRUCTION?

Anything that obstructs a driver's clear zone of visibility is a sight obstruction (i.e. bushes, shrubs, trees, fences, hedges, etc.)

To help insure adequate visibility at intersections, the clear zone required within the Helena City Limits is specified by Ordinance No. 2703, effective date May 9, 1994. This ordinance is reprinted in this brochure for your reference.

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

The corner property owner or resident is ultimately responsible for maintaining the clear zone of visibility in accordance with the City ordinance. Many claims and/or lawsuits are being assessed against property owners due to accidents at intersections where visibility problems exist.

### AS A CORNER PROPERTY OWNER, WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

**EVALUATE** visibility at your corner to see if it meets ordinances requirements.

**ELIMINATE** visibility obstructions. If it involves pruning and trimming, contact your favorite nursery for advise. In some instances, you may need to remove dense shrubbery or solid fences which blocks visibility.

### PLAN AHEAD

When planning a new yard, enhancing present landscaping, or constructing a fence, please keep the requirements in mind and consider the following options:

#### Good Choices:

- Chain Link Fence
- Shade Trees
- Low vegetation
- Dwarf Shrubs
- Tapered height Hedges

#### Poor Choices:

- Board Fences
- Evergreen Trees
- High Vegetation
- Standard Shrubs
- Even Height Hedges

## CITY OF HELENA ZONING ORDINANCE TITLE 11 CHAPTER 2 SECTION 8. “APPLICATION OF DISTRICT ORDINANCES:

EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN [CHAPTERS 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 30](#) AND [32](#) OF THIS TITLE, WITH RESPECT TO NONCONFORMING USES, TOWNHOUSES, CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS, OFF STREET PARKING AND LOADING, PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENTS, VARIANCES AND LAND USE VARIANCES, THE REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THIS TITLE SHALL BE MINIMUM REGULATIONS AND SHALL APPLY UNIFORMLY TO EACH CLASS OR KIND OF STRUCTURE OR LAND, AND PARTICULARLY:

9. FAILURE TO REMOVE, TRIM OR OTHERWISE LAWFULLY ABATE AN OBSTRUCTION WITHIN THE TIME FRAME SPECIFIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDING AND SAFETY, FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION OF THE VIOLATION (NOT TO EXCEED 45 DAYS), WILL RESULT IN THE REMOVAL, TRIMMING OR ABATEMENT OF THE SAME BY THE CITY WITH THE TOTAL COST THEREOF TO BE ADDED TO THE TAXES LEVIED AGAINST THE REAL PROPERTY UPON WHICH THE OBSTRUCTION EXISTS, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION [7-10-18](#) OF THIS CODE. (ORD. 2703, 5-9-1994)

\* FULL TEXT OF ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE AT:  
[www.ci.helena.mt.us](http://www.ci.helena.mt.us)

Follow link to city codes or:

[www.sterlingcodifiers.com/MT/Helena/Index.htm](http://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/MT/Helena/Index.htm)