

FIGURE 1
Uncontrolled

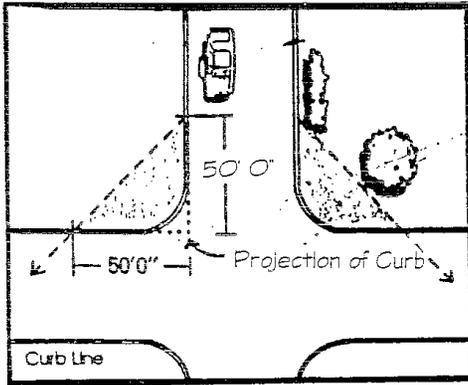


FIGURE 3
Fully controlled

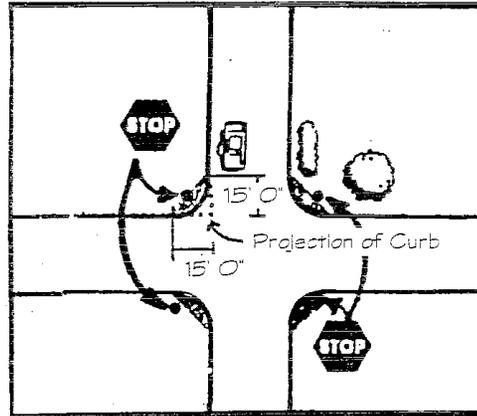


FIGURE 2
Partially controlled
(stop or yield)

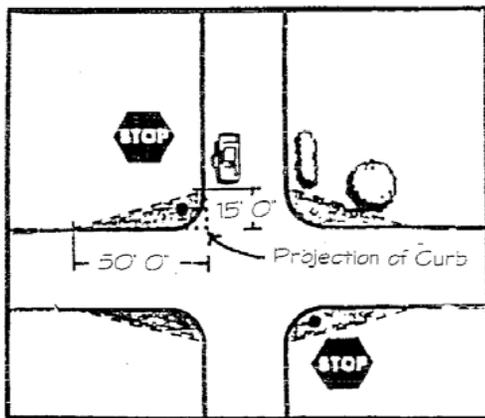
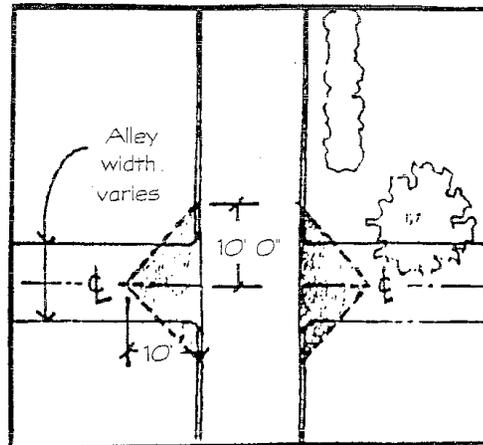


FIGURE 4
Alley intersection



City of Helena

Sight Obstruction Information

City Code - Title 7, Chapter 3, Section 7

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

This information is for you!

In an effort to reduce traffic accidents, the City of Helena Community Development Department urges you to evaluate and maintain adequate visibility at your street 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 zones required within the Helena City Limits are specified by Ordinance No. 3098 effective date 4/7/08, and shown in Figures 1– 4.

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 the ordinance requirements.

ELIMINATE visibility obstructions. If it involves pruning and trimming, contact your favorite nursery for advice. In some instances, you may need to remove dense shrubbery or solid fences which block 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
- Stepped-Height Hedges

Poor Choices:

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

TITLE 7, CHAPTER 3 OBSTRUCTIONS

SECTION 7 SIGHT DISTANCE TRIANGLE

(TITLE 7, CHAPTER 3, SECTION 7 [G])

“FAILURE TO REMOVE, TRIM, OR OTHERWISE LAWFULLY ABATE AN OBSTRUCTION WITHIN THE TIME FRAME SPECIFIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION OF THE VIOLATION, MAY RESULT IN THE REMOVAL, TRIMMING, OR ABATEMENT OF THE SAME BY THE CITY WITH THE TOTAL COST THEREOF BEING 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 TITLE.”

(ORDINANCE. 3098, 4/7/2008)

FULL TEXT OF ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE AT:

www.ci.helena.mt.us

FOLLOW THE LINKS TO 'CITY CODES'

OR AT STERLING CODIFIERS, INC.:

http://sterling.webinss.com/codebook/index.php?book_id=401