



## VALLEY CENTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Administrative Office & Fire Prevention Bureau

28234 Lilac Road

Valley Center, CA 92082

Tel: 760-751-7600 Fax: 760-749-3892 Website: [vcfpd.org](http://vcfpd.org)

January 2013

Dear Property Owner

In an effort to provide prompt and efficient emergency services to our customers, the Valley Center Fire Protection District is surveying all bridges, culverts and other crossings within our jurisdiction to ensure compliance with District, County and State fire codes. This effort is in response to the identification of several substandard, non-permitted bridges or culverts in the district, with the ultimate goal of preventing our fire apparatus from falling through a bridge or collapsing a culvert. Our staff has conducted a survey and determined that there is a bridge or culvert on your property. We will be requiring that all private bridges and culverts have the maximum vehicle load limits posted on both entrances to the elevated structure. This requirement can be found in the 2010 edition of the California Fire Code Section 503.2.6 which has been adopted by the Valley Center Fire Protection District in Ordinance 2010-39. See codes on Attachment A.

In order to ensure the safety of our personnel and equipment, we cannot guarantee our fire apparatus will cross your bridge or culvert until such time as we receive verification that your elevated structure will support a capacity of 75,000 pounds. Rest assured we will continue to provide prompt service to your property; however, service will likely be delayed if the capacity of your structure remains unanswered. Verification of capacity may be accomplished by one of the following:

1. Provide proof of a permit, or obtain a permit from the County of San Diego, Department of Planning & Land Use (858) 694-2960
2. If your bridge or culvert cannot be permitted by the County, obtain written verification from a licensed structural engineer. You may find such engineers in the yellow pages under "engineers-structural."

We thank you for your prompt attention in this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (760) 751-7600. A completed county permit or verification can be mailed to George Lucia Sr., Fire Marshal at the above address.

By: George Lucia Sr., Fire Marshal

Fire Station #72  
28234 Lilac Road  
Valley Center, CA 92082

Fire Station #73  
28205 N. Lake Wohlford Road  
Valley Center, CA 92082

**Attachment A**

**503.2.6 Bridges and elevated surfaces:** *Where a bridge or an elevated surface is part of a fire apparatus access road, the bridge shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with AASHTO HB-17. Bridges and elevated surfaces shall be designed for a live load sufficient to carry the imposed loads of fire apparatus (not less than 75,000 lbs.). Vehicle load limits shall be posted at both entrances to bridges. Where elevated surfaces designed for emergency vehicle use are adjacent to surfaces which are not designed for such use, approved barriers, approved signs or both shall be installed and maintained when required by the fire code official.*

**503.2.6.1 Evaluation:** *All existing private bridges and elevated surfaces shall be evaluated by a California licensed civil engineer experienced in structural engineering or a California licensed structural engineer, for the purposes of safety and weight rating, and the vehicle load limits shall be posted at both entrances to bridges. These evaluations shall be performed at the direction of the fire code official.*

**Signage Requirements**

*Signs shall meet the following specifications:*

- 1. Signs shall be posted at both entrances to all private bridges and on both sides of culverts.*
- 2. Signs shall be a minimum of 18"x24", 18 gauge steel or aluminum, white in color with black lettering.*
- 3. Letters shall be a minimum of 3-1/2 inches in height with a 3/8 inch stroke.*
- 4. When bridge or culvert crossings entrances are not lit, a reflective sign is required*
- 5. The bridge or culvert weight limit, as determined by a qualified engineer, shall appear above the word "TONS"*
- 6. The sign will state:*

