



1333 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, Oregon 97030-3813

Phone (503) 618-2355 • Fax (503) 666-8330

www.greshamoregon.gov/fes

Private Bridge Guide

This guide outlines the minimum requirements that must be met for privately owned bridges within Gresham Fire & Emergency Services response area. Utilizing information in this guide meets the applicable requirements found in the 2019 Oregon Fire Code (OFC) and will assist emergency responders in responding to an emergency at your property. The 2019 OFC has been adopted by Gresham Fire & Emergency Services (GFES) as the authority having jurisdiction.

CODE

2019 Oregon Fire Code – 503.2.6 & Appendix D-102.1

Where a bridge is part of fire access to a structure, the bridge shall be constructed/maintained to support fire apparatus live loads. Load limit signs shall be posted to provide the information to GFES.

PROCEDURE

The personnel and equipment of GFES, in response to emergency and non-emergency calls, are in many instances required to gain access to emergency scenes by traveling over privately owned access routes.

These access routes include privately constructed roadways, driveways, and bridges that have not been maintained in accordance with state and local safety and/or weight bearing standards.

While GFES recognizes its responsibility to provide emergency services to all persons and properties within our response area, we also recognize our responsibility to utilize reasonable means to protect personnel and equipment from unreasonable risks that could result in injury to its personnel and/or damage to its property.

For GFES personnel to consider using your bridge in the future, we require the following practices to occur:

- Private bridges require inspection by an Oregon Licensed Engineer at least every five (5) years to determine the load carrying capacity.
- Property owner(s) and/or residents affected by the bridge shall furnish a copy of the engineering report to GFES within 90 days of receiving the packet by mail. Once GFES approves the evaluation, the 5-year timeframe for re-evaluation will start.
- The maximum weight carrying capacity of the bridge, as determined by the engineering inspection, shall be conspicuously posted on or adjacent to the bridge by the property owner. Refer to the Engineering Form for specifics.



1333 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, Oregon 97030-3813
Phone (503) 618-2355 • Fax (503) 666-8330
www.greshamoregon.gov/fes

Engineer Form – Apparatus Weight Chart

Gresham Fire & Emergency Services (GFES) has adopted a policy instructing personnel to not drive apparatus across roadways with limited access or bridges without a GFES approved load limit sign. This form shall be filled out by a licensed Oregon Licensed Engineer. The engineer shall provide a summary letter with his/her wet stamp applied. The evaluation and this form shall be provided to GFES for review and approval within 90 days of receiving the letter and form. You will receive a copy of the approved paperwork. At that time, you shall have the weight sign created and install it on the access side of the bridge. GFES apparatus weights are provided in the table below. The minimum load rating that will allow us to cross the bridge with a fire engine is 40,000 lbs.

APPARATUS TYPE	WEIGHT
Command Rig	7,200 lbs.
Ambulance	14,000 lbs.
Brush Rig	15,888 lbs.
Fire Engine	40,000 lbs. (Single Axle)
Ladder Truck	75,000 lbs. (Tandem Axle)

Address / Location: _____

Property Owner Name: _____

Property Owner Phone #: _____

Engineers Name: _____

Engineers License: _____

Engineers Phone #: _____

Type: Bridge

Other (describe)

Weight Limit Sign

The maximum weight limit (load rating), as determined by the engineer, shall be posted on the street side of the driveway prior to the bridge. The owner shall have a sign company create this sign and the owner shall install it.

Sign Requirements:

- Sign shall be White Metal.
- Sign shall state “MAX LOAD RATING” on the top.
- Sign shall include the maximum vehicle weight for Two and Three axles.
- Weight shall be in pounds.
- Sign shall be mounted on a post on the left side of the driveway prior to the bridge.
- Letters and numbers shall be a minimum 2” Black Reflective.
- Refer to example below.

