

CHARLESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Marshal Division

Information Bulletin

Impact Protection



The following information is offered as acceptable impact protection per the 2012 International Fire Code. Vehicle impact protection may be required around such items as propane storage, fuel tanks, fuel pumps, generators or other sensitive equipment.

312.1 General. Vehicle impact protection required by this code shall be provided by posts that comply with Section 312.2 or by other approved physical barriers that comply with Section 312.3.

312.2 Posts. Guard posts shall comply with all of the following requirements:

1. Constructed of steel not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in diameter and concrete filled.
2. Spaced not more than 4 feet (1219 mm) between posts on center.
3. Set not less than 3 feet (914 mm) deep in a concrete footing of not less than a 15-inch (381 mm) diameter.
4. Set with the top of the posts not less than 3 feet (914 mm) above ground.
5. Located not less than 3 feet (914 mm) from the protected object.

312.3 Other barriers. Physical barriers shall be a minimum of 36 inches (914 mm) in height and shall resist a force of 12,000 pounds (53 375 N) applied 36 inches (914 mm) above the adjacent ground surface.

Please contact the City of Charleston Fire Department – Fire Marshal Division at (843)724-3429 for additional information.