



Regulatory Fire & Safety Signage Mississauga, Ontario

Fire Routes

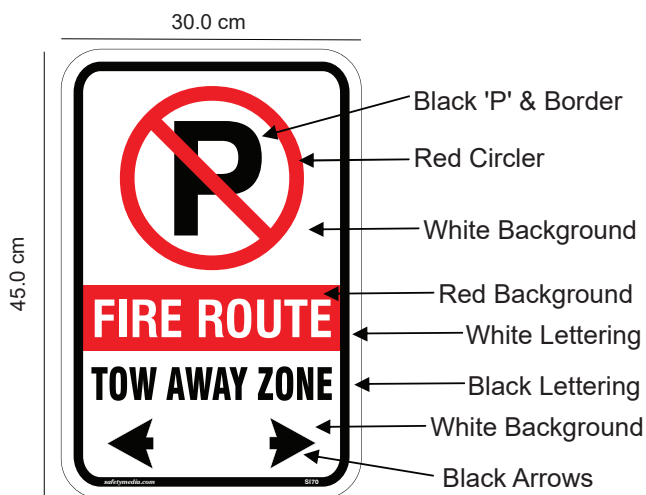
[City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 880 – Fire Routes](#)

The City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 880 regulates designated fire routes in Toronto. Fire Route signs are used to identify designated fire routes and help keep access clear for Fire Department vehicles.

Where a private road has been designated as a fire route under Chapter 880, the owner must erect Fire Route signs on the fire route in accordance with the requirements of the chapter.

Fire Route Sign Requirements

The approved Toronto Fire Route sign is **30 cm wide x 45 cm high**.



The sign includes:

- black border;
- black “P” symbol with a red interdictory circle;
- white background;
- red **FIRE ROUTE** panel with white lettering;
- black **TOW AWAY ZONE** lettering on a white background;
- black directional arrows at the bottom of the sign.

Fire Route Sign Location

Fire Route signs must be located:

- at intervals of not more than **30 metres** along the fire route;
- where the continuity of the fire route is interrupted by any highway, private road, public or private lane, intersection, or ramp;
- with one sign at each limit of the fire route;
- at curves with a change of direction greater than **45 degrees**;
- and at any other locations determined during inspection to ensure visibility.



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Fire Route Sign Installation

Fire Route signs must be erected:

- no less than **2.2 metres from grade to the bottom of the sign**;
- no higher than **3 metres from grade to the top of the sign**;
- parallel to the fire route.

Directional arrows must be masked with appropriate material on Fire Route signs located at the limits of the fire route.

Sign Visibility and Maintenance

Fire Route signs must be permanent, legible, and not obstructed by any structure or vegetation.

The owner of a private road designated as a fire route must maintain Fire Route signs in good repair, clear of snow and ice, and free from blockage or obstruction.

Parking / Tow-Away Notice

No person may park or leave a vehicle in a designated fire route. A vehicle parked or left in contravention of Chapter 880 may be removed and impounded, and the vehicle owner may be responsible for removal and impounding expenses.

No Parking/ Private Property Parking & Towing

[Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 915 – Parking on Private or Municipal Property](#)

Under Chapter 915, no person may park or leave a motor vehicle on private property without the consent of the property owner or occupant. Where the property owner or occupant has posted signs stating the conditions for parking, or signs prohibiting parking, a vehicle parked contrary to those posted conditions is deemed to have been parked without consent.

Private-property parking signs should clearly state the parking conditions or prohibitions that apply to the property or specific parking area. This may include visitor parking, tenant parking, customer parking, permit parking, reserved parking, time limits, designated parking areas, electric vehicle charging spaces, or unauthorized parking restrictions.

Where signs identify an electric vehicle parking space, a vehicle may not be parked in that space unless it is an electric vehicle and is actively connected to the charging station.



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Sample private-property parking sign wording:

PRIVATE PROPERTY
AUTHORIZED PARKING ONLY
Parking in Designated Spaces Only
Unauthorized Vehicles May Be
Tagged and/or Towed at Owner's Expense
Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 915

or

NO PARKING
Unauthorized Vehicles May Be
Tagged and/or Towed at Owner's Expense
Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 915

Towing / Vehicle Removal

Under Chapter 915, a police officer, police cadet, or municipal law enforcement officer may cause a vehicle parked or left on private or municipal property contrary to Chapter 915 to be moved, taken away, and stored. The costs and charges for removal, care, and storage may become a lien on the vehicle.

For removal by a municipal law enforcement officer not employed by Toronto Police Service, Chapter 915 requires the property to be inspected and approved, with satisfactory information showing that property boundaries are clearly defined and that signs with approved dimensions, contents, and sufficient locations are posted on the property. Chapter 915 also states that there must be no signs referring to tagging and towing except signs approved by the Chief, and any sign reference to a municipal by-law must refer to a by-law currently in force.

A tow truck operator may not tow a vehicle from private property without the vehicle owner's consent unless the required Chapter 915 conditions are met, including that signs are posted at the property in accordance with the applicable by-law.

Commercial Parking Lot Signs

[Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 545 – Licensing](#)

For licensed commercial parking lots, Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 545 requires signs to be displayed at each public entrance to the commercial parking lot and at each pay station, so they are clearly visible to drivers entering the premises and patrons paying for parking.

Commercial parking lot signs must include:

- parking rates;
- ways in which patrons may pay for parking;
- business hours;



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- operator's name or registered business name;
- licence number;
- telephone number where a voice message can be left;
- email address for inquiries.

Where a commercial parking lot operator wants to issue a demand for payment or private invoice, the required signs must also include a clear statement that vehicles parked without payment of the posted rate may be subject to a demand for payment, as well as the amount of any demand for payment and associated charge.

Important Note

Commercial parking lot signs are different from general private-property parking signs. Commercial parking lot signage must follow Chapter 545 requirements, while private-property parking and towing signs are addressed under Chapter 915.

Smoking / No Smoking

[City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 709 – Smoking](#)

[City of Toronto Smoking Bylaw – MC Chapter 709](#)

Under City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 709, smoking is prohibited within a **9-metre radius** surrounding any entrance or exit of a public building. A public building includes an enclosed building to which the public and employees generally have access, including places of employment and condominium, apartment, and similar residential buildings that are generally accessible to the public.

The 9-metre restriction applies to public building entrances and exits, including back doors, fire exits, service doors, and employee entrances. The restriction does not apply to the part of the 9-metre area that is located on a public highway, such as a public sidewalk, public laneway, or road.

Every proprietor of a public building must post no-smoking signs conspicuously at the entrances and exits of the public building. Proprietors must also prohibit ashtrays and similar items in areas where smoking is prohibited.



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Toronto Chapter 709 Sign Requirements:

Where a no-smoking sign is required under Chapter 709, the sign must include:

- a circle with a diameter of **no less than 15 cm**;
- text above the symbol stating **“No Smoking within 9 metres of Building Entrance or Exit”**;
- text below the symbol stating **“Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 709”**;
- letters and figures at least 5% of the diameter of the circle;
- two contrasting colours, or contrasting lettering and symbol if applied to a surface or clear panel;
- English and any other language the Medical Officer of Health may decide.

No Smoking / No Vaping

[Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017](#)

Under Ontario’s Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017, employers and proprietors of enclosed workplaces, enclosed public places, and other smoke-free and vape-free places must post No Smoking and No Vaping signs, or a combined No Smoking / No Vaping sign, at each entrance, exit, and washroom in appropriate locations and sufficient numbers so employees and the public know smoking and vaping are not permitted.

The City of Toronto’s Smoke-Free Ontario Act signage page lists these minimum sign sizes:

- **No Smoking sign:** minimum **10 cm high x 10 cm wide**
- **No Vaping sign:** minimum **10 cm high x 10 cm wide**
- **Dual No Smoking / No Vaping sign:** minimum **15 cm high x 20 cm wide**





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No Dumping / Littering & Dumping

[City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 548 – Littering and Dumping](#)

[City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 694 – Signs, General](#)

City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 548 prohibits littering and dumping within the City of Toronto. No person may throw, place, deposit, or cause waste to be placed or deposited on a highway within the City. On land that is not a highway, no person may throw, place, deposit, or cause waste to be placed or deposited without the consent of the owner or occupant of the property.

Chapter 548 also prohibits placing, dumping, or depositing any quantity of waste on land within the City except where permitted under the applicable City waste collection by-laws. Privately generated waste must not be placed in public litter or recycling receptacles, or in another person's or entity's regulation containers, without consent.

For the purposes of Chapter 548, waste includes garbage, recyclable materials, organic materials, yard waste, and prohibited waste. Garbage includes items such as cigarette butts, cigar tips, electronic cigarettes and their components, chewing gum, debris, junk, industrial or business waste, inoperative vehicles, vehicle parts, and other discarded or abandoned materials.

No Dumping Signs

No Dumping signs may be used to communicate that waste, garbage, debris, or other materials must not be placed or dumped on the property without permission.

Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 548 prohibits littering and dumping, but it does not prescribe a specific No Dumping sign template, wording, graphic, sign size, or mounting height. Exterior No Dumping signs may still need to comply with Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 694 – Signs, General, including applicable sign permit, sign type, sign size, location, and exemption requirements.

Sign Size and Permit Note

Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 694 generally requires a sign permit before a sign is erected, displayed, modified, or restored in the City, unless the sign qualifies for an exemption under the chapter.

A small first-party No Dumping sign may be exempt from a sign permit if the sign's primary purpose is not to identify a business on the premises and the sign face area does not exceed 0.6 m², provided it complies with all other applicable requirements of Chapter 694.

Larger exterior signs, ground signs, wall signs, illuminated signs, or signs installed in specific locations may be subject to Chapter 694 requirements and may require confirmation or approval before installation.



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Important Note

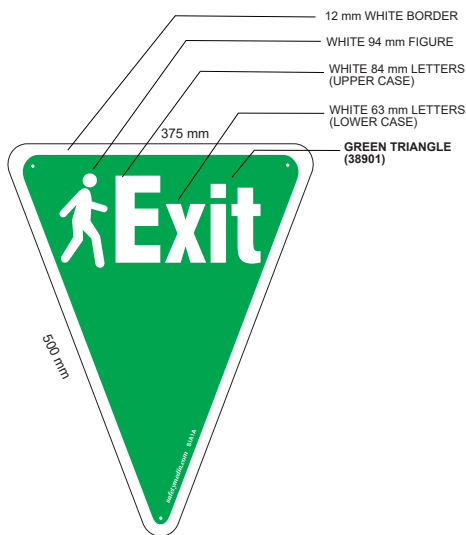
Final sign size, location, installation method, and permit requirements should be confirmed against the current City of Toronto Sign By-law before production or installation.

Parking Garage Safe-Exit Signs

[City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 629 – Property Standards](#)

City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 629 includes requirements for safe-exit signs in parking or storage garages. These requirements apply to safe-exit routes, safe-exit doors, alert signs, and safe-exit arrows in parking or storage garages.

All parking or storage garages must have safe-exit routes designated in accordance with Chapter 629.



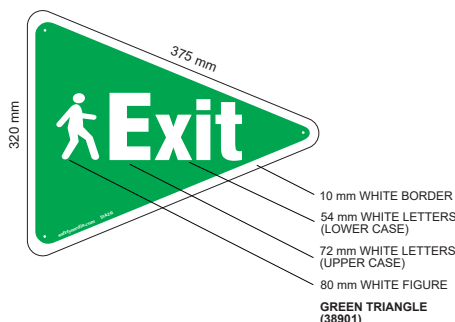
Large Safe-Exit Arrows:

Large Safe-Exit Arrows must be displayed on safe-exit doors.

They must be installed:

- **1.5 metres above the floor**, measured from the centre of the arrow to the floor;
- with the arrow pointing down.

Where placing the arrow would cover all or part of the glazed portion of an exit door, the arrow may be displayed in another location if that location is approved by the officer as meeting the general intent of the requirement.



Small Safe-Exit Arrows:

Small Safe-Exit Arrows must be prominently displayed on columns or walls.

They must be installed:

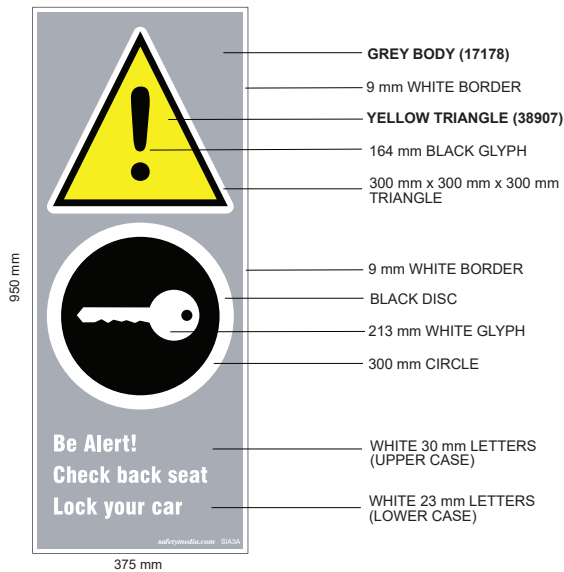
- **1.5 metres above the floor**, measured from the centre of the arrow to the floor;
- at least every **10 metres** along the safe-exit route;
- at all safe-exit route decision points;
- wherever a safe-exit route crosses a traffic aisle.



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Alert Signs:

Alert Signs must be prominently displayed on columns or walls.

They must be installed:

- **2.1 metres above the floor**, measured from the top of the sign to the floor;
- at a ratio of **one Alert Sign for every 25 parking stalls**;
- evenly distributed throughout the parking or storage garage;
- not more than **30 metres apart**.

Safe-Exit Door Colour

The safe-exit door, the safe-exit door frame, and the wall adjacent to the door must be coloured green for a distance of **1 metre on both sides of the frame** and to a height of **3 metres above the floor**, or to the soffit above the bulkhead over the door.

The green colour must match colour number **14193** in Federal Standard 595B COLORS, dated July 1994.

Emergency Exit Unlocked by Fire Alarm Sign

Where an exit door uses an electromagnetic locking device under the conditions described in Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 629, a legible sign with the wording:

EMERGENCY EXIT UNLOCKED BY FIRE ALARM

must be **permanently mounted on the exit door**. The lettering must be **25 mm high with a 5 mm stroke**.



Accessible Parking Signs

[City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 903 – Parking for Persons with Disabilities](#)

[Highway Traffic Act – Ontario Regulation 581, Accessible Parking for Persons with Disabilities](#)

City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 903 regulates parking for persons with disabilities, including designated parking spaces in parking lots and other parking facilities to which the public has access.

A designated parking space must be identified by an official accessible parking permit sign. Chapter 903 defines an official sign as a sign prescribed by the Highway Traffic Act for identifying a designated parking space or loading zone for persons with a disability.

Official Accessible Parking Sign

The standard accessible parking permit sign identifies a parking space reserved for vehicles displaying a valid accessible parking permit.

The standard accessible parking permit sign includes:

- no-parking symbol;
- International Symbol of Access;
- wording: **BY PERMIT ONLY**.

The standard sign format is **min. 30 cm wide x 45 cm high**.



Reflective sign requirements:

The accessible parking permit sign should be reflective. The interdictory no-parking symbol is red reflective; the International Symbol of Access and symbol border are blue reflective; the legend and border are black; and the background is white reflective. Minimum reflective sheeting: **Type I**.



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Bilingual Accessible Parking Permit Sign:

A bilingual accessible parking permit sign may also be used where applicable.

The bilingual sign includes:

- no-parking symbol;
- International Symbol of Access;
- wording: **BY PERMIT ONLY**;
- wording: **AVEC PERMIS SEULEMENT**.

Minimum sign size: 30 cm wide x 60 cm high

Reflective sign requirements:

The bilingual accessible parking permit sign should follow the same reflective colour requirements as the standard accessible parking permit sign: red reflective interdictory symbol, blue reflective International Symbol of Access and border, black legend and border, and white reflective background.

Minimum reflective sheeting: **Type I**.

Sign Mounting for Off-Street Accessible Parking Spaces

For off-street accessible parking spaces in parking lots or parking facilities to which the public has access, the official accessible parking sign must be permanently mounted.

The sign must be mounted with the base of the sign:

- not less than **1.5 metres above ground level**; and
- not more than **2.5 metres above ground level**.

Off-Street Accessible Parking Space Requirements

According to the Ontario Municipal Code Chapter 903, Schedule I, designated off-street accessible parking spaces must meet the following requirements:

- width of not less than **3.65 metres**;
- length of not less than **5.9 metres**, or in accordance with applicable parking-space length requirements;
- vertical clearance of not less than **2.75 metres**;
- located on a level hard surface;
- located so sidewalks, walkways, and paths are accessible by ramps, aisles, depressed curbs, or other appropriate means;
- located so a person does not need to pass behind parked cars or cross a traffic lane to access the route;
- provided with sufficient clearance around the vehicle for a wheelchair, scooter, walker, or other assistive device;
- delineated by pavement markings, which may be a different colour than other pavement markings;
- where the parking stall faces a solid wall, perpendicular lines must be painted on the wall from the ground upward on both sides of the parking stall to indicate the width of the designated accessible parking space.





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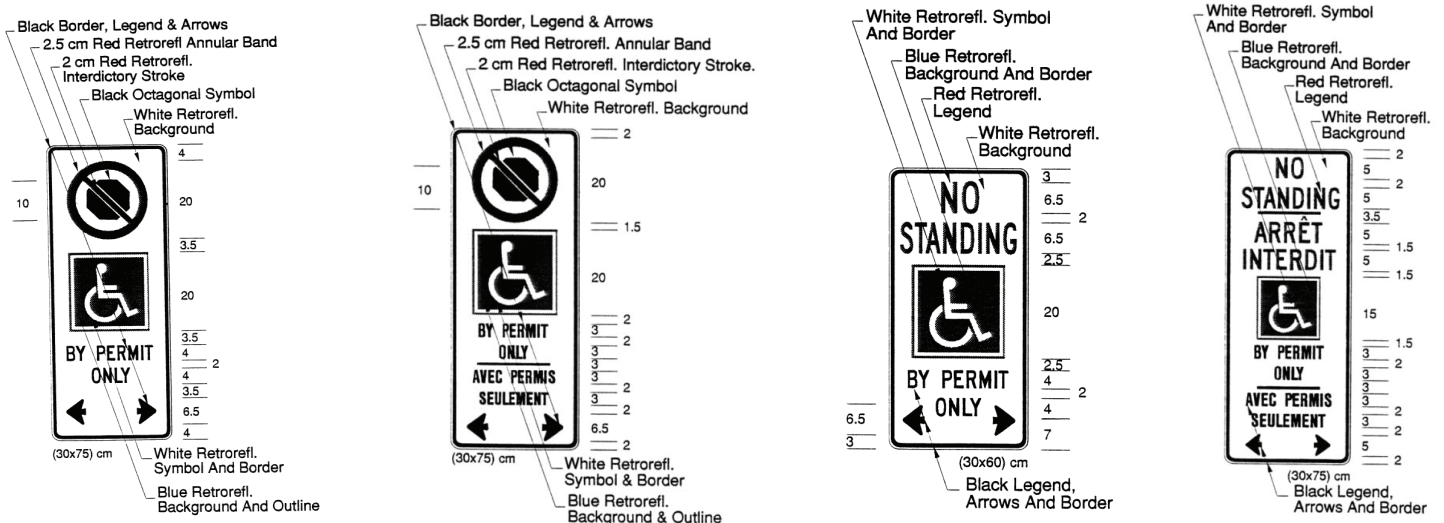
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The International Symbol of Access may also be painted on the pavement as an additional notice, but pavement marking alone does **not** replace the required official accessible parking sign.

Loading Zones for Persons with Disabilities

Where a parking lot or other parking facility has a loading zone designated by an official sign for persons with disabilities, a vehicle may park or stand in that area only while actively boarding or discharging persons with disabilities and while a current valid accessible parking permit is properly displayed.

Accessible loading zone signs are different from regular accessible parking stall signs. The NO STANDING accessible sign graphics should only be shown under this loading-zone section, not as the standard accessible parking space sign.



Reflective sign requirements:

Accessible loading-zone / no-standing signs should be reflective. The NO STANDING legend is red reflective; the International Symbol of Access and symbol border are blue reflective; the remaining legend and border are black; and the background is white reflective. Minimum reflective sheeting: **Type I**.

Permit Display and Use

A vehicle may only be parked or standing in a designated accessible parking space when a current valid accessible parking permit has been issued and is properly displayed.

The permit may also be used when the vehicle operator is transporting, picking up, or dropping off a person who has been issued a current valid permit, provided the permit is properly displayed.



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Enforcement

A vehicle parked, standing, or stopped in a designated accessible parking space or accessible loading zone without a properly displayed valid accessible parking permit may be subject to enforcement.

Chapter 903 also states that a vehicle owner who contravenes the accessible parking provisions may be liable to an administrative penalty of not less than \$300.00. Vehicles parked in contravention may be moved, taken away, and stored, with removal, care, and storage costs becoming a lien on the vehicle.

Fire Safety Boxes / Fire Safety Plan Boxes

[City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 470 – Fire Safety Boxes](#)

City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 470 regulates Fire Safety Boxes in Toronto. The official term used in the by-law is **Fire Safety Box**. A Fire Safety Box is a metal cabinet or box locked with a padlock and used to store the required Fire Safety Plan and related contents.

Every person who is required under the Fire Code to prepare and implement a Fire Safety Plan approved by the Chief Fire Official must install and maintain either a Fire Safety Box, or a Fire Safety Box and a Lock Box or existing Lock Box, on the premises.



product example

Fire Safety Box Location and Installation

Every required Fire Safety Box must be:

- surface-mounted within **3 metres of the main entrance** of the premises;
- mounted at a height between **1.5 metres and 1.8 metres above the floor**;
- securely mounted to an interior wall of the premises;
- large enough to hold all required contents, including an **unfolded Fire Safety Plan**.

A Fire Safety Box may be located somewhere **other** than within 3 m of the main entrance only with the **prior written approval of the Chief Fire Official**.

Fire Safety Box Contents

Every required Fire Safety Box must contain:

- a true copy of the approved Fire Safety Plan for the premises;
- a completed, up-to-date Building Audit Familiarization Programme for the premises, if prepared by the Fire Department and approved by the Chief Fire Official;
- an unlocked replacement padlock capable of locking the Fire Safety Box and Lock Box, where applicable;
- keys for service rooms, where the premises has service rooms, unless the premises has a separate Lock Box or existing Lock Box.



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Service Room Keys

Where service-room keys are placed in the Fire Safety Box, the owner must provide a full working set of keys for the service rooms.

The keys must have metal or plastic tags with complete and up-to-date information clearly identifying the service rooms that the keys open.

Only the Fire Department, the owner, or the owner's authorized agent may remove keys or change key identification tags, and only for permitted purposes such as Fire Department access, updating identification information, or replacing defective keys.

Fire Department Access

The Fire Safety Box, Lock Box, or existing Lock Box must remain locked at all times, except when the Fire Department requires access or when the contents are being updated.

The Fire Department must be permitted to access the Fire Safety Box, Lock Box, or existing Lock Box, including the required contents, and may use any available means to obtain access or open the box.

Lock Box Note

Toronto Chapter 470 distinguishes between a **Fire Safety Box** and a **Lock Box**.

A **Fire Safety Box** is used to store the approved Fire Safety Plan and related required contents.

A **Lock Box** is used to store keys to service rooms. Where service-room keys are not stored in the Fire Safety Box, a separate Lock Box or existing Lock Box may be required.

Disclaimer: *The information contained in this document is provided for general informational purposes only and should not be considered legal advice. By-laws, codes, and government requirements may change or vary depending on the property type, location, and specific circumstances. Before producing, installing, or relying on any signage for compliance purposes, please confirm the current requirements with the applicable municipality, fire department, building department, or other local authority.*