

SIGHT DISTANCE

A CLEAR VIEW: VEGETATION, WALLS AND FENCES



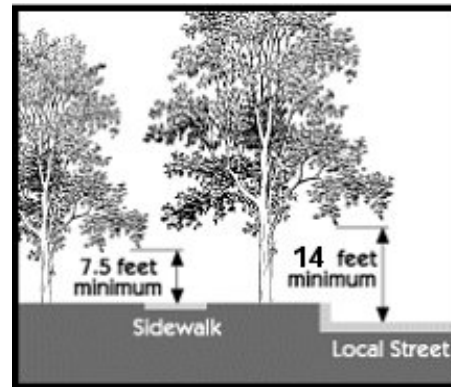
STREETS AND VEGETATION

The area between the sidewalk and the street, often called the landscape or parkway strip, is within the road right-of-way. The County's road right-of-way is an easement right and not fee ownership of the land. The adjacent property owner is the owner of the underlying property. County of Ventura codes and policies identify trees, and other vegetation as encroachments. The adjacent property owner (or occupant) is responsible to maintain all plants and trees on private property, including those within the adjacent road right-of-way.

Before you plant, prune or remove a tree, you must obtain a permit from

the County to "encroach" into this road right-of-way. If the trees are "protected" (Oaks, Sycamores etc.), you must check with the Planning Department at (805) 654-2451.

To ensure safe passage for everyone, tree limbs over streets and sidewalks must meet the standards below.



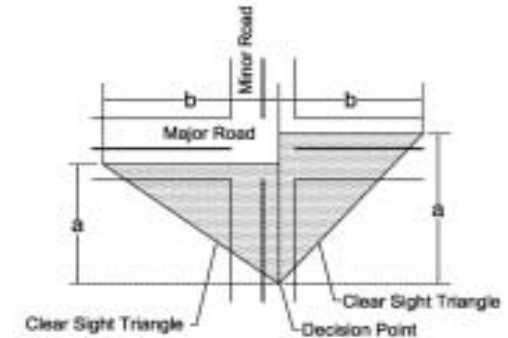
A WAY TO MAKE OUR STREETS SAFER

Overgrown vegetation impedes the safe flow of traffic when it blocks our view of traffic signs, pedestrians and other vehicles. If vegetation is blocking visibility in the street or an intersection, it is your responsibility as the adjacent property owner or resident to trim the vegetation.

Each quadrant of an intersection should provide an approach sight triangle, free of obstructions that might block the approaching driver's

view of potentially conflicting vehicles.

The length of the legs of this triangular area, along both intersecting roadways, should be such that drivers can see any approaching vehicles in sufficient time to slow or stop before colliding within the intersection. The Ventura County Zoning Ordinance requires 40' sight triangles at intersections with no stop signs or traffic signals. Distances "a" and "b" are 40 feet.



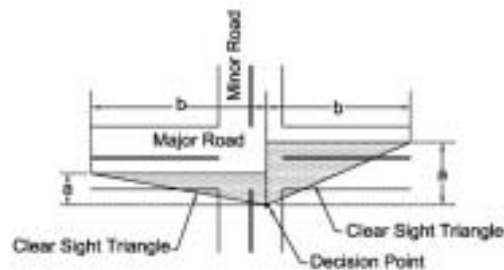
Uncontrolled Intersection

A second type of clear sight distance triangle provides sight distance for a stopped driver on a minor-road approach to depart from the intersection and enter or cross the major road.

Departure sight triangles should be provided in each quadrant of the intersection approach controlled by stop or yield signs.

A clear sight triangle for viewing traffic approaching from the left should also be provided at signalized intersections where traffic is permitted to turn right-on-red so that drivers can clearly see traffic approaching from the left before entering the intersection to complete a right-turn maneuver.

Distances “a” and “b” vary with the speed limit of the major road and whether trucks will use the intersection. The Transportation Department should be contacted to determine these distances.



Stop Sign Controlled Intersection

WALLS AND FENCES

Walls and fences in front yards frequently are the cause of sight distance obstructions. The Zoning Ordinance prohibits structures, walls, fences and hedges in the front 20' of virtually all lots unless they are less than 3' in height. Depending on

the size of the lot and its zoning, taller fences may be allowed if they are 50% open such as chain link fences. You are urged to contact the Planning Department at (805) 654-2488 to discuss exceptions to the 3' height limit for fences.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PROPERTY OWNERS

If the County is notified that there might be a visibility problem at your corner, you will be contacted and requested to trim or remove the vegetation or other obstructions such as walls and fences causing the sight distance restrictions. The letter also notifies you that should a traffic collision occur due to lack of maintenance of this vegetation, you may be subject to legal action.

If the trees and shrubs are not trimmed in a timely manner, the County may trim the vegetation and bill you for the cost incurred.

REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

If you have questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic please call the Transportation Department at: **(805) 654-2049** or through the “Contact Us” link at: <http://www.countyofventura.org>

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Transportation Department**
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