The angle of approach or departure affects the road clearance of vehicle when going over short steep grades such as found in a driveway entrance, crossing a high crowned road at right angles, or in off-road service. Too low an angle of approach or departure will result in scraping the apparatus body. In those cases where equipment is stored below the body, the angle of approach or departure must be measured to a line below the equipment.

Standard NFPA 1901 for Pumper Fire Apparatus – This standard specifies the minimum requirements for new automotive fire apparatus.

Angle of approach - The smallest angle made between the road surface and a line drawn from the front point of ground contact of the front tire to any projection of the apparatus in front of the front axle.

The angle of approach and the angle of departure of at least 8 degrees shall be maintained at the front and rear of the vehicle when it is normally loaded.

*The angle of departure and angle of approach of a fire access roadway shall not exceed 7 Degrees, (or 12 %) or as approved by the Chief.*