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Mailbox Installation

Notice of Brazoria County Clear Zone Requirements

Obstructions are not allowed within the clear zone of any Brazoria County roadway. The clear zone is defined by the TxDOT Roadway Design Manual as the unobstructed traversable area provided beyond the edge of the through traveled way for the recovery of vehicles. The clear zones for Brazoria County roadways are ten (10) feet from the roadway edge of travel way for rural roadways (without curbs) and four (4) feet from the face of curb on curbed roadways. Mailboxes are allowed within the clear zone only if they have breakaway characteristics approved by the County Engineer.

Brick or other "monument style" mailbox structures are not designed to break away when struck by moving vehicles. Due to the serious risk posed to the traveling public by these types of structures, they are strictly prohibited for use within the clear zone.

Below is a list of design characteristics meeting the approval of the County Engineer for installation within the clear zone.

- All mailbox installations must meet the requirements of the U.S. Postal Service.
- Mailbox supports erected within the clear zone shall be four (4) inches by four (4) inches or four (4) inches in diameter if wood or one and a half (1½) to two (2) inches in diameter if steel or aluminum.
- A metal post should not be fitted with an anchor plate; however, an anti-twist device that extends no more than ten (10) inches below the ground surface may be used.
- Mailbox supports shall be embedded no more than twenty-four (24) inches into the ground and shall safely break away if struck by a vehicle.
- Mailboxes shall be attached securely to supports so they will not separate from the post when struck by a vehicle.
- Other mailbox support designs that have been documented to be crashworthy may be submitted to the County Engineer for review and approval.

More information regarding safe mailbox design and installation may be found in the latest version of the AASHTO *Roadside Design Guide*, Chapter 11.

Any mailbox or other structure not meeting the above stated criteria shall be removed by owner at Brazoria County's request. Your assistance with this matter is greatly appreciated.


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