

# Cromwell Fire Department

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Stephen Pendl, Fire Chief

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Let it be known that the Cromwell Fire Department supports Bill No. 6454 for the General Assembly: An Act concerning Fire Station Work Zones.

The public street in front of any firehouse would be designated as a Fire Station Work Zone and therefore be subject to the same traffic precautions as construction or utility work zones.

Passing of this bill would increase firefighter safety by reducing firefighter exposure to moving traffic. Upon returning to the fire station, our trucks have to stop in front of two of our three stations and back up into our station, which requires our firefighter personnel to stop any oncoming traffic. This makes our firefighters vulnerable to be hit by passing traffic who do not comply. Since these firefighters are WORKING, we ask that the street area in front of each fire station be designated as a FIRE STATION WORK ZONE. We recognize that these areas will need to be marked as a work zone by designation with a different or additional traffic sign other than just the existing fire station traffic sign.

The Cromwell Fire Department has had an incident where a passing vehicle did not comply with a firefighter, in full turnout gear, directing traffic for a fire truck backing into our Court St. station, and the firefighter was grazed by the vehicle. Luckily he was uninjured, albeit shaken up.

*Stephen Pendl*

Stephen Pendl  
Chief of Department