

Increasing Campus Safety at Arizona State University (ASU)

BUILDING ACCESS AND FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION (FDC) PROTECTION

Arizona State University

As the Fire Marshal for Arizona State University (ASU), Chief James Gibbs is tasked with ensuring the safety of thousands of students, faculty, staff and visitors that use the hundreds of buildings across the university daily.

PROBLEM

Protecting visitors and property throughout ASU's five Phoenix campuses is no easy task. In fact, Chief Gibbs, who has worked at the university for 30 years, recalls the challenge emergency responders faced when trying to enter a building: *"Emergency responders would need to wait for campus police to arrive at the building they were trying to enter. Then they would have to wait for campus police to locate the correct key. That or they would have to enter by force."*



Protecting university property presented its own set of challenges. As with any major campus, the university faced occasional vandalism and theft. The fire department, specifically, dealt with tampering of its sprinkler systems and theft of its chrome and brass Fire Department Connection (FDC) caps. In addition to the costly repair, the fire department's ability to protect a building during a fire is severely threatened when the FDCs are damaged, blocked with debris or missing due to theft.

The need to keep people and property safe were most crucial in resident life buildings, where students enter in and out 24 hours a day. That is why, nearly ten (10) years ago, Chief Gibbs and ASU sought to identify a solution that would address this need and could be implemented university-wide.

SOLUTION

► Knox Building Access

ASU chose Knox entry system due to:

- ✓ **Safety:** First responders can gain immediate, safe building access to all campus buildings with one master key in an emergency
- ✓ **Protection:** Minimize forced entry, protect property from damage and reduce injury to responders

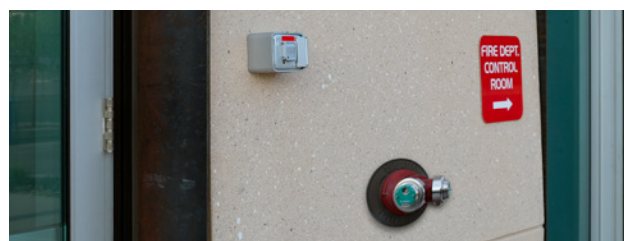
Installation: 650+ KnoxVault dual lock keybox providing two-authority access (local fire department & ASU Police/Fire Marshal group)

► Knox FDC Protection

ASU chose Knox locking FDC caps due to:

- ✓ **Protection:** Knox FDC Locks protect both the intake and discharge sides of the fire protection systems, ensuring clear and reliable connections during fire emergencies
- ✓ **Security:** Costly chrome and brass cap replacement could now be eliminated as the Knox FDC Locks are secured onto the FDCs and can only be opened by the Fire Department

Installation: 1,200+ Knox 2.5" FDC Locks



DEPLOYMENT

Chief Gibbs and ASU turned to Knox, the first company to take on the challenge of developing a rapid entry system specifically designed for firefighters.

“Knox streamlined our entry process for all buildings and improved our emergency response time. This aids my department’s ability to keep our university community and facilities safe.”

Chief Gibbs - ASU

Knox Rapid Access System provided Chief Gibbs and ASU the ability to protect students, faculty, staff, visitors and property by providing a complete, secure key control system to campus facilities.

To increase security measures and response, the KnoxVault dual lock key vault was chosen to

provide dual-authority access into buildings. One lock is keyed to the local fire department and the other lock allows ASU Police and the ASU Fire Marshal group to also gain access.

Additionally, the Knox FDC protection program helps Chief Gibbs and ASU protect both the intake and discharge sides of the university’s water-based fire protection systems, ensuring clear and usable connections during fire emergencies.

“Knox FDC devices help prevent any kind of vandalism or trash being thrown in the sprinkler or standpipe system. This ensures our fire department personnel can respond appropriately and efficiently. It’s also a big cost-savings because we don’t have to pay for those systems to be cleaned or replaced nearly as often.”

Chief Gibbs - ASU

RESULTS

ASU was one of the first major universities to implement Knox products. The buildings at ASU are now secured with FDC locking caps and equipped with key vaults to allow first responders immediate access in an emergency.

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ABOUT KNOX COMPANY

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Today, one revolutionary lock box has grown into a complete system providing rapid access for public safety agencies, industries, military, and property owners across the world. The Knox Company is trusted by over 14,000 fire departments, law enforcement agencies, and governmental entities.



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