



RAPID ACCESS

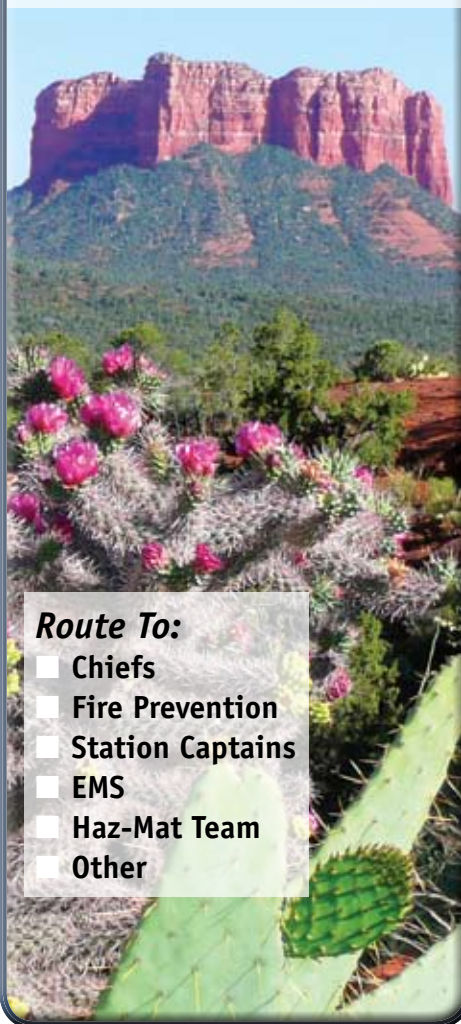
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Route To:

- Chiefs
- Fire Prevention
- Station Captains
- EMS
- Haz-Mat Team
- Other



Small Town, Big City Service

BRANSON, MO

Branson, Missouri has been continually ranked as one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country. With more than 53 theaters, 207 lodging facilities and 458 restaurants, it has many challenges not normally found in communities with only 7,500 residents. Yes, Branson's population is only 7,500 residents. Yet, they had 7.9 million visitors in 2007, averaging more than 70,000 daily visitors during peak season. While Branson's population is small, it has all the services usually found in much larger communities.

Branson first began their Knox program in 1984. Today, "any property in Branson with a fire alarm, fire sprinkler or special hazard need is required by local ordinance to have a Knox-Box key box." Division Chief Ted Martin explained. "It is standard procedure that all new construction must have a box installed by final inspection."

Tourism is Branson's primary industry. As with any tourist area, Branson's population fluctuates between high and low seasons. During high season, businesses have extended hours. While during the low season, many businesses close for a month or more. Even when a business is closed, the fire department needs access when the building's fire alarm

is activated. "Having a Knox-Box reduces our wait time and damage to property from a malfunctioning sprinkler. We don't have to wait for a runner to arrive to let us inside," Martin said.

The resorts in Branson pose a unique challenge as many have multiple buildings located on their properties. Rather than install a box on each individual building, one large box is installed to house all keys. "Lodging facilities at several resorts have



Captain Jerry Leonardo and Firefighter Jeff Martin open the gate using a Knox Key Switch while Engineer Rick Palmer looks on.

a box at the entrance rather than at each individual building," Martin stated.

Objections to the program have been few. If a business has any objections, they are encouraged to install a Knox-Box with a tamper switch connected to their building's burglar alarm. When a tamper switch is

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EDITORIAL

We'd like to say thank you to those who took the time to complete the survey you received earlier this year. Overall, the response to the survey has been outstanding. Your positive comments have been very encouraging to our staff. For those who did have a concern or suggestion, we are reviewing your comments and are working to address them. Again, thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. Your feedback is very important to us.

Presently, we are in the middle of a busy tradeshow season. Take a moment to review our schedule on page 7 to see when we'll be in your area. Hopefully we'll see you at a show in your part of the country.

Normally we send one copy of the newsletter to each department but if you would like more people included or would like the newsletter delivered to each station, please let me know and I'll make it happen! I can be reached at 800.552.5669, ext. 505 or cjones@knoxbox.com.

Thank you for your support of the Knox System. We look forward to serving your department for years to come.



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Knox® FDC Protection News

StorzLok is now StorzGuard™

With the release of our new StorzGuard kits (*see back page*), we have changed the name of StorzLok to StorzGuard™.

Ordering FDC Protection Products

Our FDC Protection Program has expanded in the last year to include several different sized plugs and caps. Here's a quick guide to our current offering:



All 2.5 inch female threaded connections such as FDC inlets require a locking **FDC plug** (Knox part number 3011 or 3010 for NH (National Hose Thread), other threads available).



All 1.5 inch female threaded connections such as FDC inlets require a locking **FDC plug** (Knox part number 3050 NH).

All male threaded connections such as standpipes or hydrants require a **SecureCap™** (Knox part number 4011 for NH threads, other threads available).



All Storz connections require a **StorzGuard™** (Knox part number 5002 for 5" Storz or 5001 for 4" Storz).

When you are signing the authorization order form, please verify that the property owner has selected the correct FDC product for their application in your jurisdiction. This will help to ensure that they receive the correct product.

Locking FDC Plug Maintenance Recommendations

Locking FDC plugs should be inspected by a qualified inspector on an annual basis to ensure that the connection and the locking plug are in operating order.

When a FDC system is back flushed for clean out, all of the Knox® FDC Plugs must be removed so that contaminated water and debris will not flood the caps and cause contamination problems. This is especially important if the sprinkler system has developed microbial infestation.

Knox FDC Plugs are not designed to function as pressure-seal plugs for wet systems. If the check valve upstream is defective and leaks water, the water will go through the plug to show leakage. The defective check valve must then be repaired.

Forged vs. Cast Storz Connections



Southlake Texas Fire Department has been using the Knox system since 1992.

In 2004, Southlake expanded their Knox program when they adopted the 2003 International Fire Code and began requiring locking caps on all Storz and Siamese connections. "Locking caps make the connections a lot safer. The caps prevent sabotage or even trash from being a problem", commented Fire Marshal David Barnes. "For homeland security reasons, we felt we needed to adopt the locking caps. In the past, the plastic covers were getting lost and kids stuffed trash into the connections or birds built nests," stated Barnes. The ordinance was adopted without encountering any resistance. "The need for the code wasn't questioned," commented Barnes.

Since 2004, Fire Marshal Barnes has been implementing the FDC ordinance requirement. During the department's annual inspections, business owners are informed of the ordinance and are given 30 days from their inspections to have the caps installed. Since implementing this program, Southlake has encountered one recurring problem. (Southlake uses primarily Storz connections rather than Siamese connections.) When the department started to install the Storz caps, they had difficulty in getting the StorzGuard to fit onto some businesses' connections. The Knox StorzGuard is made with forged materials to meet the original DIN (*Deutsches Institut für Normung - German Institute for Standardization*) standards. Additionally, it is also compliant with *NFPA 1963 Standard for Fire Hose Connections*. Knox prides itself on producing products that meet or exceed published standards. Unfortunately, Southlake has found many Storz connections installed in their jurisdiction do



Fire Marshal David Barnes and Fire Inspector John Ard showing off installed StorzGuard caps.


not meet the original DIN standards. To save cost, many manufacturers of Storz connections are using parts that are cast rather than forged. Per the DIN standards, cast products are more suited for non-firefighting, low pressure applications. Firefighting applications should only use forged connections.

From the untrained eye, forged and cast connections look identical. Due to the manufacturing processes though, the strength and integrity of the two types of connections vary widely. Castings can have imperfections that are unseen. There can be internal voids and strength variances throughout the material that are not visible. Forged materials do not have these strength variances and internal voids. The forging process helps to provide equal strength throughout the connection and no internal voids. The result is that forged materials have higher integrity and greater reliability. It is for these reasons that the original DIN standards require all firefighting connections to be forged rather cast.

Most building owners rely upon

contractors to select the best, cost effective product available when building a structure. Unfortunately, many contractors only look at the cost of the materials and not the inherent differences. Casting is a less expensive manufacturing process. Therefore, cast connections tend to be less expensive than forged connections. Southlake has found that many of their businesses have installed cast connections. These cast connections do not meet the DIN standards for firefighting applications. Cast connections increase the likelihood that the connections will not fit properly with the fire departments hoses, and they do not meet the acceptable dimensional standards of NFPA 1963. An incorrect fit can seriously jeopardize the department's ability to combat a fire.

Knox StorzGuard will fit properly onto Storz connections that are manufactured to the DIN Standards and NFPA 1963 dimensional standards. If a connection is not manufactured following these two standards, there is no guarantee Knox StorzGuard will fit.

Southlake Fire Department now uses the StorzGuard as a final test that an appropriate connection has been installed on a building prior to the Certificate of Occupancy being given. The Southlake Department of Public Safety services a community of 25,000 and covers a 27 square mile section in the heart of the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex. 



Knox now offers Storz adapters that meet DIN standards, see back cover.

Accessing the Fortress



Gated communities are found in various forms all across the country. Some are gated apartment complexes, while others are prestigious single-family golf communities, complete with guards at the gates. Found in almost every corner of the country, there are millions of Americans living in some form of private gated community. According to the Census Bureau, more than 7 million American households, about 6% of the national total, live in developments behind walls, fences, and gates. In California the percentage rises to 40% and in parts of south Florida it goes much higher. Some people move to these communities for an enhanced feeling of security while others enjoy a certain level of prestige and exclusivity. While the majority of the growth of these gated communities is located in the traditional Sunbelt states, the movement towards privacy and limited access is seen all over the country. Some will argue that in modern America these steps are needed to ward off crime and reclaim the neighborhood. Sociologists say that these communities, resulting out of fear or the desire for secluded prestigious living, creates a 'fortress mentality' that adds to the polarization and fragmentation of American society.

Gated communities do not only affect those living in the enclosed areas. They can also have an impact on the local authority in terms of their long-term planning strategies, urban development, traffic control, and the ability of emergency services to provide the best level of protection. In terms of the delivery of emergency services, these communities offer unique challenges to fire, law enforcement and EMS providers.



Can the fire department maintain the same average response times to these communities and apartment complexes or does the gate become an obstacle that slows down the responding units? Will the Police or Sheriff routinely patrol complexes where the officer does not have easy access from the patrol car? Agencies that do not employ some type of reliable, fast access through limited access gates cannot provide the same level of service as the ones who do.

Gated Styles

In an article published in *American Demographics*, researchers Edward Blakely of USC and Mary Gail Snyder of Berkeley, identify three kinds of fortified American neighborhoods, distinguished by the primary motivations and financial ability of their residents:

- **Lifestyle Communities:** The gates provide security, but also separation for the leisure activities and amenities within. These include retirement communities, golf and country-club developments.
- **Elite Communities:** The gates symbolize distinction and prestige, both of which create and protect a secure place on the social ladder. These include enclaves of the rich and famous, developments for the very affluent and executive home developments for the upper-middle class.
- **Security Zones:** The fear of crime and outsiders is the foremost motivation for these defensive fortifications. This category includes inner-city perches, often in deteriorating areas... attempting to protect property and property values... where street closures create suburban-style street patterns within a city grid.

Now that we have identified the socio-economic motivators that cause people to move 'inside the gate', what do we do to insure fast, reliable public safety?

Security vs. Convenience

Security is seldom cheap, and many times is not convenient. It is a balancing act between what is needed and desired against what is practical and affordable. The more we secure our cars, homes, and property the less convenient they become. It would be easy and convenient to leave the car doors unlocked every night with the key in the ignition. In most U.S. cities, if you tried that, you would find yourself calling a cab the next day to get to work. The same concept works in many apartment complexes and club communities. It is a balancing act to maintain egress to the public way for residents, while enhancing the ability for emergency crews to respond quickly, the whole time helping protect the residents from those that would prey on them.

How do Emergency Crews Get In?

The access gates on most gated complexes are electronically controlled with either a card reader or radio transmitter or other preemption device that activates the gate for a predetermined period of time. While some fire departments rely on an override code, most require a backup means to gain access in an emergency. Some cities utilize a passive preemption device that allows the fire department to make faster access through the gate. There are some products on the market that utilize a strobe light or the siren on the apparatus to trigger the gate to operate. They all

work fine until the fire department needs the gate to remain locked open for mutual aid, to lay fire hose across the threshold of the gate, or if there is a power outage or malfunction of a battery/solar backup. Regardless if the gates are the traditional sliding tract gates, swinging estate gates, or non-powered 'static' gates, emergency responders need to be able to gain fast reliable access in a worst-case scenario. Many of these gates are being retrofitted around existing residential complexes. Here are some suggestions that can help:

- **Key Switches** A key switch mounted on the entry pedestal of a complex will allow fire crews to manage the operation of the gate and can allow the gate to be locked open.
- **Padlocks** A padlock mounted on the 'chain-drop' or a conventional sliding gate or in the articulating arm of a swinging estate gate will allow access even during a catastrophic event including a power outage, where other electrically dependent entry systems are inoperable. They are also effective securing non-powered 'static' gates.
- **Lock Boxes** A lock box mounted near the front entry gate of a community can house various items including access cards, keys to sprinkler rooms, and location maps for hazardous materials (example: Chlorine, Ammonia or Tri-Sodium Phosphate) stored for use in apartment pools or gated community water parks.

The growth trend of gated communities is expected to rise in the next few years. This is not anything new. For thousands of years people have been

building walls around their settlements or villages as a way to protect themselves from the outside world. In today's market place, if an apartment or residential development is not gated, it will not appear as safe or prestigious as the ones that do. Regardless of the motivation of the residents, the requirements for emergency responders remain the same. Fast, dependable response is a minimum requirement. The taxpayers require it. With



Agencies that do not employ some type of reliable, fast access through limited access gates cannot provide the same level of service as the ones who do.

proper planning and reasonable proactive measures, local jurisdictions can maintain a high level of response at a minimum cost to the residents. Regardless of the application, gated complexes offer both unique challenges to fire departments, and a perfect application to suggest the Knox Solution. Your decisions insuring safe, dependable delivery of service will have lasting results. ◻



Knox Contacts

Big City Service...

Continued from Front Page

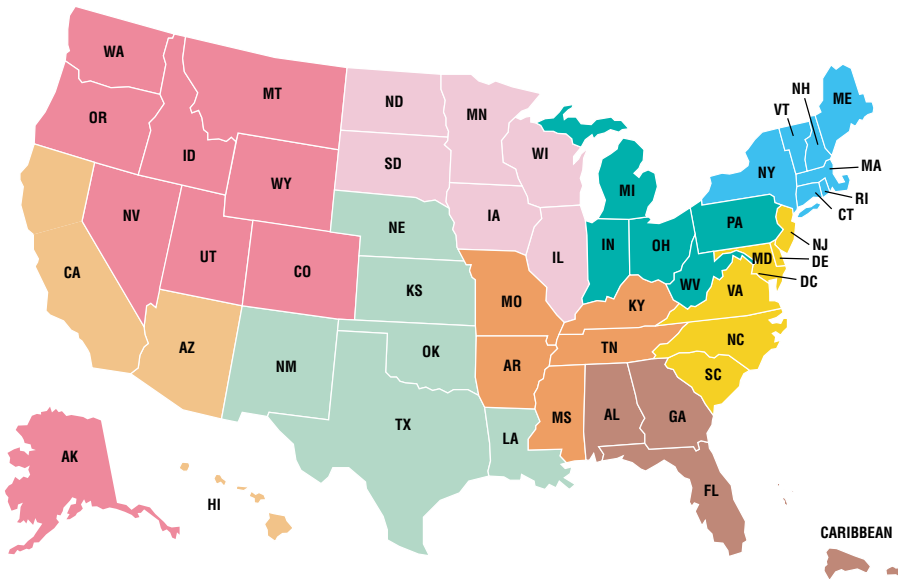
attached to a building's burglar alarm, the alarm is triggered each time the box is opened. This gives the alarm company a record of each time the box is accessed. In many cases, the alarm company will send a runner to the building to check out the situation.

During a building's annual inspection, the engine company checks the Knox-Box. As Martin explained, "Businesses change, managers' change, employees change. When individuals change, they change the building keys without notifying the



Fire Prevention Officer Randy Fogle opening a 3200 Knox-Box.

department. For those businesses who fail to notify us, we find them during the annual inspection. Opening the box also exercises the lock and makes sure the box is functioning as intended." (Knox recommends that all Knox-Box units be inspected annually so that grit and debris can be prevented from making the box difficult to open.) The key found in the box is checked by using it to open the front door. The department has been able to locate many businesses that have changed their locks without updating their box during this part of the inspection process. During the inspection, they occasionally find a business that is not up to code. "While conducting annual inspections, we



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SUPPORT CONTACTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT SUPPORT

This department provides customer service to fire departments.

**800-KNOX-BOX
(800-566-9269)**

ELECTRONIC SUPPORT

This department deals exclusively with technical questions regarding KeySecure® and Sentralok® units.

**866-KNOX-BOX
(866-566-9269)**


PROPERTY OWNER SUPPORT

Property Owners & General Inquiries to Knox should be directed to our main number.

**800-552-KNOX
(800-552-5669)**

continue to find additional businesses that don't have a box but by code should," shared Martin.

Gated communities have grown throughout the US in recent years, and Branson is no exception. While gates provide a sense of security by limiting access, during an emergency responders need immediate access. Waiting for someone to open the gate wastes valuable time, while forced entry through the gate results in property damage and can cause injury to responders. This year Branson has begun to focus on gates as a result of their growing popularity within their community. "We recently installed our first Key Switch at a new condo complex," stated Martin.

Branson serves their community of 7,500 residents and more than 7 million annual visitors from three fire stations. This relationship driven fire department has 38 career firefighters supported by an average of 12-16 volunteer firefighters and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program. "We're essentially a small town with big city features," stated Fire Chief Carl Sparks. "We are proud of our personnel's commitment to keeping Branson a Fire-Safe community for its residents and visitors. The Knox program is an integral part of our Technical Services programs," added Sparks. 

NEW FDC Brochure

A new Knox FDC Program brochure is available that is written with the property owner in mind. You can view a PDF of the new brochure online, or call **800-566-9269** to order a supply of this FREE brochure.



2008 Tradeshow Schedule		
Show	Location	Dates
SEAFCA Annual Conference	Chattanooga, TN	June 19-21
New England Fire Rescue	West Springfield, MA	June 20-22
Arkansas Fire Chiefs	Bentonville, AR	June 26-29
Tennessee Fire Chiefs	Nashville, TN	July 13-15
South Carolina Fire Rescue	Myrtle Beach, SC	July 14-20
Ohio Fire Chiefs	Sandusky, OH	July 19-23
Texas Fire School	College Station, TX	July 20
Firehouse Expo	Baltimore, MD	July 24-26
Florida Fire Chiefs	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL	July 25-30
Arizona Fire Chiefs	Glendale, AZ	July 28 - August 1
Missouri Fire Marshals Conference	Lake of the Ozarks, MO	August 7-8
Fire Rescue International	Denver, CO	August 15-16
OK Fire Marshals Association	Ardmore, OK	August 26-29
NC State Firemen's Conference	Winston-Salem, NC	August 29-30

The Key to a Secure System

Knox System security is always important. Protecting the Knox® Master Key and documents listing installation addresses helps ensure that the Knox System is solely for the benefit of your department.

The four security steps listed below are the ways your department contributes to the security of the Knox program in your community. Thank you for following these simple yet important rules.

- 1. Keep all Knox keys in a secure place.**
- 2. Do not release the Knox provided keys to any non fire department or law enforcement personnel.**
- 3. Do not provide Knox installation database access to any non fire department or law enforcement personnel unless required by law.**
- 4. Notify Knox immediately of loss, theft or attempted duplication of any key.**



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NEW Knox StorzGuard™ Kits

The Knox Company now offers StorzGuard™ kits comprised of a Storz mounting adapter to fit the building FDC intake pipe and a locking Knox StorzGuard cap. The forged adapters have a hard anodized aluminum metal face and are available in both 4" and 5" configurations. The adapters are available in straight or 30 degree elbow configurations that connect to 4" and 6" National Pipe Thread (NPT). Each adapter includes 3 heavy duty stainless steel set screws. The adapters are compliant with the DIN Standard and NFPA 1963 Standard for Fire Hose Connections. Forged aluminum connections provide for greater firefighter safety.



4" StorzGuard™

5" StorzGuard™




The water-tight, locking StorzGuard prevents trash and debris from being stuffed into uncovered connections. The Knox StorzGuard protects Storz connections on fire hydrants and water based fire protection systems such as sprinkler intakes. The easy-on, easy-off locking cap also provides protection against connection lug damage. Additionally, it protects against water theft – a growing concern for many communities. The new cap works on all gasket types and metal faced finishes. The Knox StorzGuard is available in both 4" and 5" configuration.



Straight Adapter



30° Adapter

Storz Adapter and StorzGuard caps are available in turn key kits or individually. 

To learn more about StorzGuard, contact your account manager or visit www.knoxbox.com.



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