



RAPID ACCESS

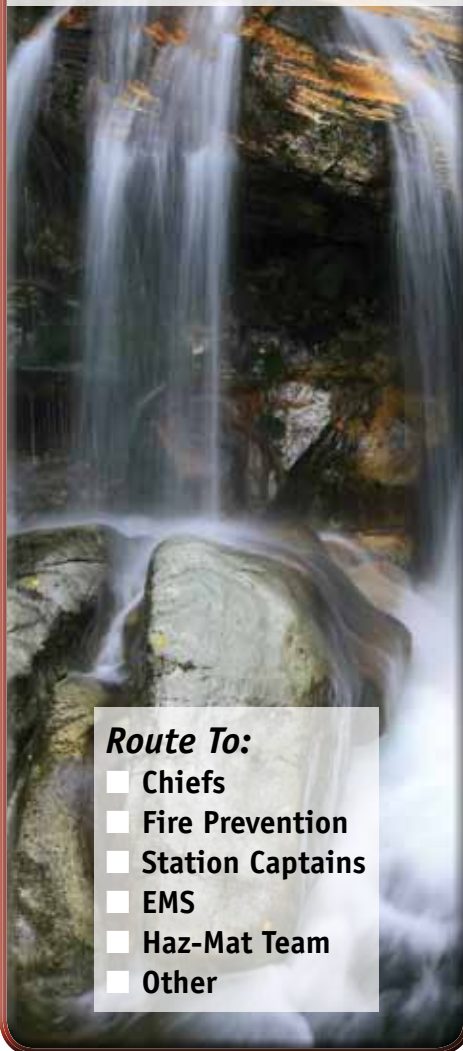
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Route To:

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



SANTA CLARITA, CA

Ordinance Increases Sheriff's Presence In Community

While the Knox System has traditionally been used by Fire Departments, many police, sheriffs and EMS providers have found a need for the Knox System. Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station in Los Angeles (LA) County California is one such department.

The LA County Fire Department started their Knox program in 1984. Over the years, the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station witnessed the benefits of LA County Fire Department's Knox System and decided to look into becoming part of their Knox program. After discussing the situation with the fire department, both the fire department and sheriff's station decided it would be best if each department had their own unique Knox program. "Everyone agreed that the integrity of each system would be easier to maintain if each department had their own system," Sergeant A.J. Rotella said.

Within LA County, there is one fire department and 21 separate sheriff stations each covering a specific geographic area. "We're unique in that the county fire department has one universal key for their system and we have 21 separate sheriff stations and only a few participate in the Knox program," explained Rotella. Each station is somewhat autonomous in that the individual

stations determine whether they want to participate in the Knox System or not. Also, each participating sheriff's station has its own system.

In 2000, the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station implemented a separate but complementary Knox System to the Fire Department's system. To differentiate the two systems the sheriff's products have a gold decal (designating sheriff) while the fire department's products have a red decal (designating fire). The sheriff's



Fire and Sheriff access slowed by gates

station wanted to ensure all products are installed correctly, so they require the product to be installed by one of two local locksmiths. These locksmiths have the department's installation requirements and ensure all products are installed following one universal method and one standard location.

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EDITORIAL

We hope you find the articles this month informative. We have two departments with unique applications as well as an article on ordinances.

It has been a little tough this year for many of us. With the current economic situation, we realize that many of you are unable to travel to the national shows. To help you keep up to date with Knox, we are continuing to exhibit at many of the state and regional shows. So even if you can't travel to one of the national shows, you should still be able to see Knox at a local show. On page 7, you will find a short listing of some of the upcoming shows where we will be exhibiting.



MADE IN THE U.S.A.

At Knox, we are very proud to say our products are made in the USA. As many companies move part or all of their operations overseas, Knox is committed to producing its products in the USA.

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

Cynthia Jones



Publisher
Knox Company

Editor Cynthia Jones **Art Director** Cynthia Weiss

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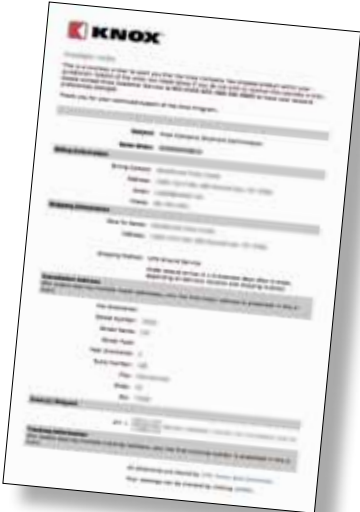
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Knox E-Mail Notifications

The Knox Company is dedicated to providing Fire Departments with the most accurate and current information available. With this in mind, Knox can now send e-mail notifications to departments for certain events: shipment confirmations for products purchased for use within their jurisdiction and electronic updates for both KeySecure and Sentralok units as soon as they become available.

Shipment Confirmations

- Include: Package Tracking Information
Installation Address
Item(s) Shipped
Name and address of Purchaser
- Sent to the Knox Coordinator only
- Purchaser of product will receive a shipment confirmation if an e-mail address is provided on the Knox Authorization Order Form
- Generated daily



Electronic Updates

- Provides information on software updates or product enhancements and implementation instructions
- Sent to the Knox Coordinator
- Additional individuals can be designated to receive electronic updates
- Generated as updates become available



To sign your department up to receive these e-mail notifications, please contact Knox Fire Support at 800-566-9269. Since these e-mail notifications are auto-generated, they can not be re-generated once sent. Once your department is set-up for e-mail notification, please add the 'knoxbox.com' domain to your 'trusted senders' list, to ensure e-mails are not sent to your junk folder or blocked by spam filters.



No Longer Waiting for Key Holders

LONG ISLAND, NY



Franklin Square Munson Fire Department on Long Island, New York recently implemented the Knox System within their community. Chief Fire Inspector Joseph Gerrato took on the task of spearheading this new program. "Since we're an all volunteer department, time is an issue. Waiting for a key holder at night takes unnecessary time. Also, we don't want to cause unnecessary damage to a structure," Gerrato shared. "Some neighboring departments already use the Knox System. So, we were familiar with the system and how it could help us."

Gerrato outlined the steps that had to be taken before the program was implemented. "First, I made a formal proposal along with a demonstration of the product to our department training committee who is responsible for investigating, testing and looking for new tools and equipment for the department. Jon Kemp (the region's account manager) came to one of the meetings to present the program and provided some examples and hands-on demonstration of the product. Once the committee reviewed the proposal, they referred me to the board of fire commissioners. Ultimately the board of fire commissioners is responsible for our department and any programs we implement. So, we needed their approval before we could move forward."

Gerrato elaborated; "The board's main issue was the security of the key and access to buildings and businesses. After a detailed proposal with information and support of the department training committee, the commissioners approved us to start the program."

"After the commissioners adopted the program, we developed a letter to business owners explaining how the system worked. We stressed how this was a pro-active

program and that the department makes no money on the program. It was very important to us that the community know that this is not a money making operation for the department. Rather, it is a service we offer," explained Gerrato.

While there was some initial concern regarding access to the master key, the department was able to address these concerns by installing a KeySecure key retention device on the apparatus desk where a camera is always aimed. (KeySecure units provide an audit trail showing who and when the key was accessed.) So, in addition to the unit's audit trail, the department has a video record showing the key being removed.



Franklin Square has a county dispatch system and an in-house computer aided dispatch system. As each box is installed, the location of the box is recorded in the in-house system and it's included on the preplan printout that is generated for a call. Dispatch also has a copy of this information. When the alarm is sounded, dispatch announces over the radio if a building has a box and its location. This tells the responders to take the master key with them.

To further educate the community business leaders about the Knox Program, several members of the department attended a local chamber of commerce meeting to present the new Knox Program. They distributed a Knox-Box information request form the department had

developed. This form allows businesses to request additional information from the fire department. The fire inspector's office is currently contacting these businesses to follow up with additional information on the program and work with the business to get a box installed

At the same time the department was implementing the Knox System, a bank was getting ready to open a branch in their community. The bank contacted the fire department regarding getting a Knox-Box on their building. All the bank's branches have a Knox-Box and they wanted a box on the newest branch getting ready to open in town. This bank was the first business to install a box within the jurisdiction.

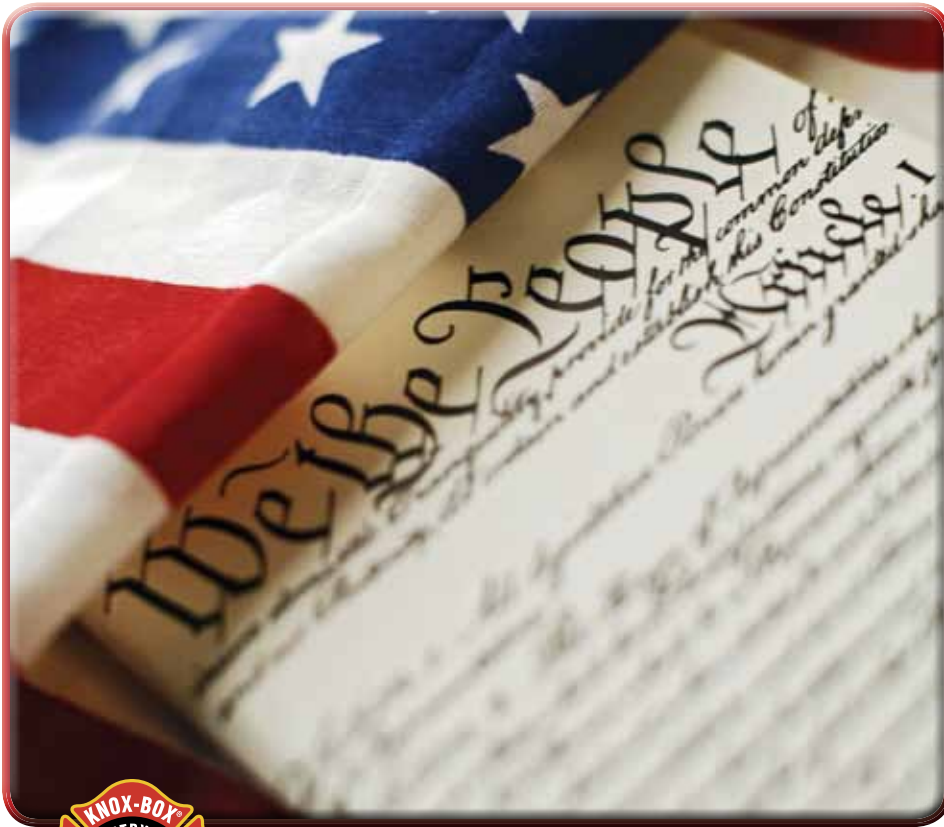
A few weeks after the bank opened, the bank's fire alarm went off after hours. The department was able to gain access to the interior offices of the bank and the alarm room by using the new Knox-Box rather than waiting for a key holder. "It turned out the cleaning crew was heating food that smoked and set-off the smoke alarm," shared Gerrato. The responding crew was able to assess the situation, reset and reactivate the alarm and then re-secure the building.

"Just a few weeks ago, a building's alarm activated at 2 am for two days in a row. Since this building didn't have a Knox-Box, we had to break the lock to get inside. In both cases, it was a false alarm. The locksmith repairing the lock suggested the building owners ask the fire department if they had a Knox Program. The locksmith charged the building owner to repair the locks at \$200 per lock," Gerrato shared.

"As part my job as fire inspector, I was on my way over to suggest they obtain a Knox-Box. When I got there, the building owner was already looking into contacting the fire department regarding ordering a

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Why Pass a Local Ordinance?



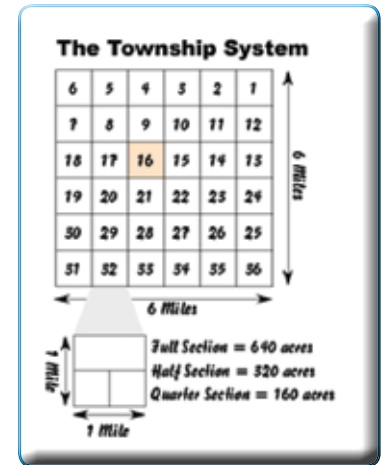
A Young Fledgling Union

has declared its independence in the summer of 1776. Before Delaware could ratify the Constitution to become the first state in 1787, the colonies are already fighting over land. At least seven of them had made claims to the west as they knew it, the land west of the Appalachians. It was not long before it became obvious to Thomas Jefferson that the federal government would have to step in, so he introduced the first official ordinance in America, the Ordinance of 1784. In part, it advanced the following ideals:

- The undeveloped west must remain under the control of the central government
- Developed western areas must help pay back debt incurred in the Revolutionary War
- Slavery must be prohibited in these newly formed areas
- Detailed guidelines that would assist western regions in achieving statehood



Later ordinances led to the formation of the federal township system, six mile square divisions of land called "Townships", a term used by many fire departments today. Why are ordinances important today? Who passes them? How are they enforced?



When most Americans think about the legislature, our minds go to Washington DC and images of wheeling / dealing, lobbyists, and the game of politics. While we recognize many of the faces and what side of the political 'aisle' they are on, we generally see our national legislators as being far away, detached from the people back in the home district, and not really having too much impact on our day-to-day lives. What we sometimes fail to grasp is the power of the local government and legislature, be it a city council or county board. We seldom know any of their names and have no idea where they stand on the issues. What also escapes most people is the power local governments possess and the tremendous impact they have on our daily lives. It may be in the direct form of parking or smoking ordinances, or indirect ways like 'Community Development' standards. Local city councils or commissioners courts have the ability to make radical changes in the



Many communities will have ordinances that focus on tree preservation or the length of a dog leash, both worthwhile issues, but will fail to address issues related to fire and life safety.

way a community operates and how we live our lives. Many communities will have ordinances that focus on tree preservation or the length of a dog leash, both worthwhile issues, but will fail to address issues related to fire and life safety. This is where the legislature and a local ordinance becomes a powerful tool that code officials can use to implement change and deliver a higher level of service to the citizens. To those local officials the message is simple: There is tremendous, usually untapped power in your local legislature. Put it to work for your community and the citizens you serve.

In the long history of fire prevention & protection in America, there have been many occasions where code officials have taken major steps to enhance the level of survivability of occupants in a fire scenario by passing ordinances requiring that business owners make substantial changes to existing structures and occupancies. Unfortunately, many of these changes have come as a result of catastrophic high-fatality fires that prompted a public

outcry. Some code officials will say that they do not have the authority to require these changes to older, existing structures. History does not support this position. All local officials are just one incident away from public scrutiny, litigation, and mandatory change. Historical events, coupled with the trend toward aggressive action by forward-thinking code officials and fire marshals, has led to the concept of passing local ordinances with a retrofit component that addresses issues relating to public safety to lessen the loss of life and property damage. This is true of key boxes and the need to protect fire sprinkler and standpipe connections. It is important that fire officials proactively recognize changing trends and work to make buildings safer and more survivable.

Ordinance vs. Policy Statement

Because the process is perceived to be time consuming and complex, some fire officials will attempt to make changes to the code by instituting a Policy Statement and making the desired change. For example, they will determine that fire lanes need to be expanded, or fire extinguisher service intervals need to be adjusted. While this may be acceptable in the short run, or when there are unique circumstances, like a temporary burn ban, it is questionable if it is even within the power of the executive branch (fire marshal) to both set standards and enforce them as law without legislative review and consent. That is where an ordinance becomes a powerful tool. As the word implies, the ordinance is 'ordained' by the community as a whole and has the full weight and enforcement authority as does any other law. It promotes consistency and uniformity in prevention and code enforcement. A local policy statement

may be challenged and brought before an appeals board or the courts if a citation is issued for noncompliance. It may be possible for the policy to be challenged as being the 'opinion' of the fire official and not necessarily a recognized standard.

There is tremendous, usually untapped power in your local legislature. Put it to work for your community and the citizens you serve.

If that same policy had been adopted into the city's Code of Ordinances the requirements are recognized as being the 'will of the people' and are more easily enforced and defended in court.

Emerging Needs

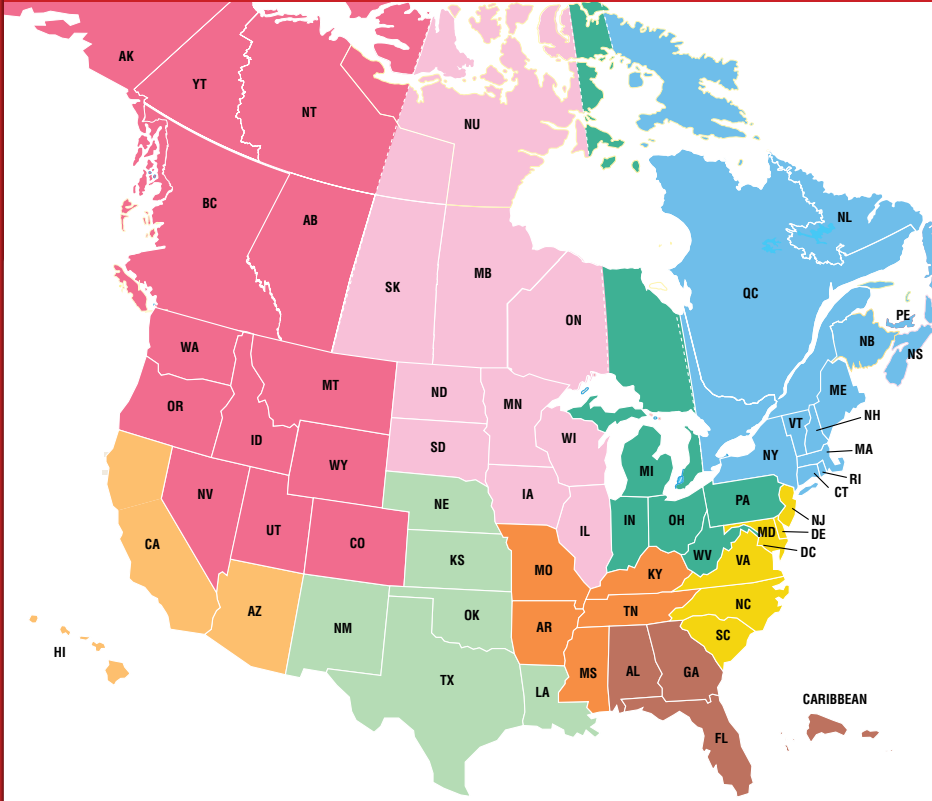
As communities grow and emerging needs arise, new standards will need to be implemented and adopted to meet the demand. Understanding how the legislative system works and the keys to success is vitally important in implementing these requirements to the community.

The power of the legislature is available to every community. While it can be complex, it is also the most effective way to make long-term sustainable improvements to your community. Adopting a local ordinance that addresses the public safety concerns in your community will demonstrate consistency and will make it easy for those affected to comply. The power is available to you. ◀

Learn about the process, become involved.



Knox Contacts



FIRE SERVICE MANAGERS

Northwest

Jeff Moser
866-361-5844
Fax 866-361-5845
jmoser@knoxbox.com



Central

Joe Shanley
866-223-2623
Fax 866-223-2640
jshanley@knoxbox.com



Northeast

Jon Kemp
866-436-0493
Fax 866-436-0494
jkemp@knoxbox.com



West

Marlene Briones
866-702-4406
Fax 866-275-4039
mbriones@knoxbox.com



North Central

Larry Lulich
866-889-4181
Fax 866-613-9412
llulich@knoxbox.com



Atlantic

Bryan McIntosh
877-707-5286
Fax 877-773-4197
bmcintosh@knoxbox.com



Southwest

Rebecca Heller
866-417-8458
Fax 800-704-0889
rheller@knoxbox.com



South

Virginia Cardwell
866-504-7230
Fax 901-685-2125
vcardwell@knoxbox.com



Southeast

Bill Brown
888-342-3530
Fax 888-342-6655
bbrown@knoxbox.com



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.

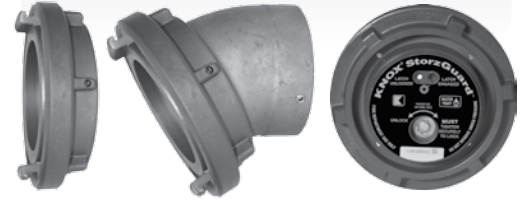
**866-KNOX-BOX
(866-566-9269)**

PROPERTY OWNER SUPPORT

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

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

NEW Knox StorzGuard™ Kits



The Knox Company now offers StorzGuard™ kits comprised of a Storz mounting adaptor to fit the building 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. The original DIN standard specifically states that any aluminum used in a Storz application must be 'forged' and not 'cast'. The DIN standard goes on to state that in the interest of firefighter safety, any cast aluminum connection components must be reserved for non-fire fighting applications.

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.

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

FRANKLIN SQUARE, CONTD.

box," elaborated Gerrato. They ended up buying the box on-line while the inspector was in their office.

Franklin Square decided to go with the on-line ordering option. They didn't want businesses to have to go to the fire department and obtain a form. "The on-line ordering has worked out very well. It speeds up the time for a box to arrive," Gerrato said.

The department protects a population of approximately 30,000 in an area of about three square miles consisting of Franklin Square, Garden City South, and parts of West Hempstead. ◀



FREE Literature

As a reminder, colorful brochures explaining the benefits of the Knox Rapid Entry System are available to your department for distribution to property owners. This literature is available at no charge to all departments. Contact Fire Department Support or log on to www.knoxbox.com and click on support/request literature.



KNOX NEWS

2009 Tradeshow Schedule

Show	Location	Dates
Washington Fire Chief	May 27-26	Spokane, WA
Alberta Fire Chiefs	May 23-27	Red Deer, AB
NFPA	June 8-10	Chicago, IL
New York Fire 2009	June 10-13	Verona, NY
Wisconsin Fire Chiefs	June 26-27	Wisconsin Dells
Metro Chiefs	June 21-25	Edmonton, AB
New England Fire Rescue	June 25-28	West Springfield
Maryland Fire Convention	June 13-19	Ocean City, MD
Arkansas Fire Chiefs	June 26-28	Hot Springs, AK
Tennessee Fire Chiefs	July 12-14	Nashville, TN
South Carolina Fire Rescue	July 14-18	Myrtle Beach, SC
Ohio Fire Chiefs	July 18-19	Sandusky, OH
Texas Fire School	July 19, 2008	College Station, TX
Florida Fire Chiefs	July 18-22	Fort Lauderdale, FL
Firehouse Expo	July 23-25	Baltimore, MD
Mo Fire Marshals Conference	August 3,	Osage, MO
NC State Firemans	August 20-22	Raleigh, NC
Fire Rescue International	August 25-29	Dallas, TX

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.**



KNOX
Serving Fire Departments Since 1975

1601 W. Deer Valley Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85027

623-687-2300
800-552-5669

623-687-2299 Fax
www.knoxbox.com



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Sheriff's Presence...

Continued from Front Page

Initially, the sheriff's department was frustrated that a tool existed allowing them perimeter access but that businesses were not voluntarily complying by installing product. While the fire department was able to enforce their program through the permit process; the sheriff's office didn't have this ability. Partnering with the fire department and Knox, the sheriff's station was able to get an ordinance passed requiring perimeter access to all gated communities and common areas as well as the interior of certain public buildings such as schools be provided to the sheriff's station. The sheriff's ordinance does not require private commercial businesses to provide interior building access to the sheriff's department but they must provide perimeter access to a building and its grounds. It is a misdemeanor to not be in compliance with the ordinance.

After the ordinance was passed, the sheriff's station sent notification to specific businesses they knew were not compliant with the new guidelines. "When we first began promoting the program, we had a list of more than 70 apartments

and gated communities within the community," shared Rotella. Businesses have been given one year from the date of the ordinance passing to bring their property into compliance.

To further communicate the program to the community, the sheriff's Knox Program is highlighted on their website. Additionally, the sheriff's station developed a brochure (working with Knox) to distribute to businesses. They've sent information to every gated community and apartment complex within their jurisdiction. Also, they've met with many of the HOA associations to educate the community on the benefits of the program as well as the ordinance requirements. Sample product is available for review during these community events.


Previously many of the gated communities would provide an access code to the police. When the police needed to get in, they would radio dispatch who would then provide the code. Unfortunately, many individuals monitor the police frequency giving them access to these codes. "The integrity of the (gated) communities systems was being compromised. Anyone who was monitoring the police frequency had the

SANTA CLARITA, CA



code. Also having to call for the code only led to delays," explained Rotella.

Having access to gated communities has increased the sheriff's presence within these neighborhoods. "We're now able to be a visible presence and in the past we were not able." It helps the department respond more quickly to calls from these gated communities, in particular domestic violence calls.

"The response from the community has been outstanding. The City has been very supportive of the sheriff's program," Rotella said. In Santa Clarita, the sheriff is generally the first responder to 911 calls. 

To learn more about adopting an ordinance in your jurisdiction, contact Knox for an Ordinance Packet.