

GATE REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCY ACCESS TO RESIDENTIAL AREAS:

The intent of this document is to adopt a common set of requirements for emergency access to residential areas, when necessary approvals have been given to restrict access to these areas. A Residential Area is, for the purposes of this policy, an area having four (4) or more residential dwelling units having a common path(s) of access and that access will be restricted by the use of gates.

1. When an access gate is desired, approvals shall be obtained from the police department, fire department and Emergency Medical Service having primary jurisdiction.
2. There shall be a clear horizontal clear width of 20' and a clear vertical height of 13'6" to comply with fire lane requirements.
3. There shall be a six inch (6") clearance between the bottom of the gate and pavement to allow for the laying of large diameter fire hose. If rollers on the bottom of the gate are necessary for stabilization purposes, there must be a safety stop means if gate movement encounters fire hose, so as to prevent damage to fire hose.
4. The gates shall be a set back from the intersecting roadway of not less than seventy-five feet (75') to avoid exposing the emergency vehicle to be struck by other vehicles.
5. There shall be preemption operation of the gate that is activated by an emergency vehicle's siren on both the ingress and egress side. The preemption operation shall be designed so that the gate is fully opened when an emergency vehicle reaches the gate.
6. If the property is protected by a fire alarm system installed in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association's *NFPA 72 Fire Alarm Code*, the operating system shall be interconnected with the fire alarm so that upon fire alarm activation, the gate(s) are opened.
7. There shall be a "Knox Box" keyed switch located 5-1/2' above the pavement on both the ingress and egress side of the gate. (This is for non-emergency use so that siren use is not necessary, thus avoiding a disturbance to nearby residents, or when silent entry is desired for law enforcement purposes). A fire department shall have the option of requesting a dual key switch arrangement with one of the key switches being keyed to the department's registered Knox Box key, and the other key shall be the Louisville Metro Emergency Key.
8. There shall be a sign stating "Emergency Access" using retro-reflective material near the keyed switch.
9. The gate owner shall, upon request by the emergency response agency, provide a reasonable number of keys to the requesting agency. Emergency response agency means the fire department, police department and Emergency medical service having primary jurisdiction for the restricted area. *(A reasonable number of keys means the number of keys necessary to provide each emergency response vehicle that is likely to respond to the enclosed area in case of an emergency. For example, the fire department having primary jurisdiction shall be provided with a key for each emergency vehicle, as would each ambulance along with each police vehicle assigned to the division, in which the property is located.)*

10. Whenever a gate has been opened by operation of preemption or “Knox Box” keyed switch, it shall remain open until deactivated by the emergency service causing the opening of the gate.
11. The gate shall be provided with emergency power (batteries are acceptable) so that in the event of a power outage, the gate is fully opened, and remains open for the duration of the power outage. The owner of the gate shall ensure regular testing and maintenance of the emergency power to ensure its proper operation during power failures.
12. There shall be a means for manually overriding gate operation.
13. There shall be signage to advise the public of the presence of an access gate located at the nearest intersection of streets, if the gate is not visible from such intersection. (This is to avoid a motorist from traveling down a street and having to reverse travel.)
14. Repairs to any gate that has been damaged as the result of an emergency response, shall be borne by the owner of the gate.
15. Items 4 through 13 may be waived, or partially waived, when approved in writing by all three emergency response agencies (police, fire and EMS) having primary jurisdiction.