



WSFD Fire & Life Safety Standards	
Topic	Installing Knox Boxes and Other Knox-Keyed Products
Effective Date	November 24, 2025

For exterior-mounted Knox boxes:

- Knox boxes should be installed in an unobstructed location easily visible to approaching responders. Please don't "hide" the Knox box from view!
- Knox boxes for facilities other than individual private dwellings should be installed at least four feet (4') but no more than five feet (5') above grade. Firefighters come in all sizes, so let's not make the box too low or too high to reach.
- Access to Knox boxes must remain unobstructed for the life of the building. Keep this in mind when installing décor, landscaping and security features.
- Identify the entry door closest to the Knox box that will be accessible using the keys in the Knox box. The red decal that arrives with the Knox box should be placed on that entry door. This helps firefighters recognize the quickest way into your building. Do not place the decal on the Knox box!

For interior-mounted elevator key boxes:

- At least one elevator key box shall be installed in each elevator bank at the lobby nearest to the lowest level of fire department access. In certain circumstances, as prescribed by the fire code, the fire code official can reduce the number of required elevator key boxes.
- Each elevator key box shall be installed on the right side of the elevator bank at a height of five feet, six inches (5'6").

For Knox-keyed switches controlling vehicular gates:

- The switch shall be mounted on a stanchion or monument approaching the gate, aligned so that it is accessible from the driver's side of an approaching vehicle.
- The switch location must allow the gate to open fully without requiring the fire apparatus to reposition or to move backwards.
- The switch shall be configured so that, once activated by the first-arriving fire apparatus, the gate will remain in the fully-open position until the switch is manually reset by fire department personnel.

Once your Knox box is installed, please collect all items that will be installed inside the box before arranging to have a fire code official come to your site. If the Knox box will contain multiple keys, each key **must** be marked with permanent tags that identify its purpose.

If you have further questions, please contact the following authorities:

- For projects involving an issued permit, contact the plan reviewer assigned to your project.
- For all other installations, contact the fire code official assigned to conduct inspections for your location.