

The “Weakest Link” in Fire Sprinkler System

FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION (FDC) PROTECTION
Durham Fire Department – Durham, NC

Few tools are as significant as automatic fire sprinklers and standpipe systems when it comes to minimizing fire damage and protecting lives. Buildings that have unprotected Fire Department Connections (FDC's) can render a fire sprinkler system useless. Water based fire sprinkler systems are the life blood of any fire department's ability to adequately protect building infrastructure and occupants.

PROBLEM

During regular safety inspections, Durham Fire Department in Durham, North Carolina, discovered large numbers of unprotected building FDC's that were either damaged, vandalized or clogged with trash and debris. Chief Edward L. Reid, CFI, Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal, and his staff found stuffed toys, soda cans, and old newspapers jammed inside the openings of these vital fire sprinkler connections.



The FDC is the access point for a building's sprinkler system to receive supplemental water. Since most building owners are not aware of the importance of protecting FDC's, Chief Reid was looking for an effective, easy-to- implement solution that business owners could implement to protect and secure their FDC's from debris, damage and vandalism.

SOLUTION

► Knox FDC Lock™ System

Durham Fire Department chose Knox FDC Locks due to the following criteria:

- ✓ **Quality:** Knox FDC Locks are more durable and rugged than plastic plugs that break easily.
- ✓ **Protection:** FDC connector threads are protected, ensuring a proper hose fit every time.
- ✓ **Security:** Locking cap prevents debris, trash or fire accelerants from being inserted into FDC connection. This secures the connection and eliminates the need for costly back flushing which can cost up to \$1,500 per incident.
- ✓ **Simplicity:** Easy for firefighters to remove Knox FDC Lock in a fire emergency.



DEPLOYMENT

Chief Reid decided the most effective way to secure and protect buildings of Durham, NC was to write a requirement of use for FDC Locks into the existing Durham city fire code. As of July 2015, new buildings are required to use a secure locking FDC cap to protect the fire department connections or FDC's.

Chief Reid stated, "The Knox FDC Lock Program was smooth and easy to implement. Knox supplied us with free FDC key wrenches and educational material we needed to train our people."

//The Knox FDC Lock is a great prevention measure to address the problem with clogged and damaged FDCs. There has been no pushback from our building owners. They understand the value that the FDC Lock provides. //

Chief Reid - Durham Fire Department

RESULTS

New building fire department connections are now 100% secured which improves the integrity of the building's fire sprinkler system. Now with a city-approved solution in place, existing structures are also utilizing

the Knox FDC Lock for protection and added security. Durham proactively promotes awareness campaigns to educate building and business owners the value of securing their FDC's or fire department connections to minimize risk, liability and loss in case of a fire emergency.



For more information, please call **800.552.5669** or visit **knoxbox.com/protect-fdcs**

RESOURCES

- ▶ [Watch Video](#)
- ▶ [IFC/IBC/NFPA Fire Codes](#)

ABOUT KNOX COMPANY

Over forty years ago, a unique concept in rapid access for emergency response was born. The KnoxBox®, a high-security key lock box, was designed to provide rapid access for emergency responders to reduce response times and protect property from forced entry.

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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