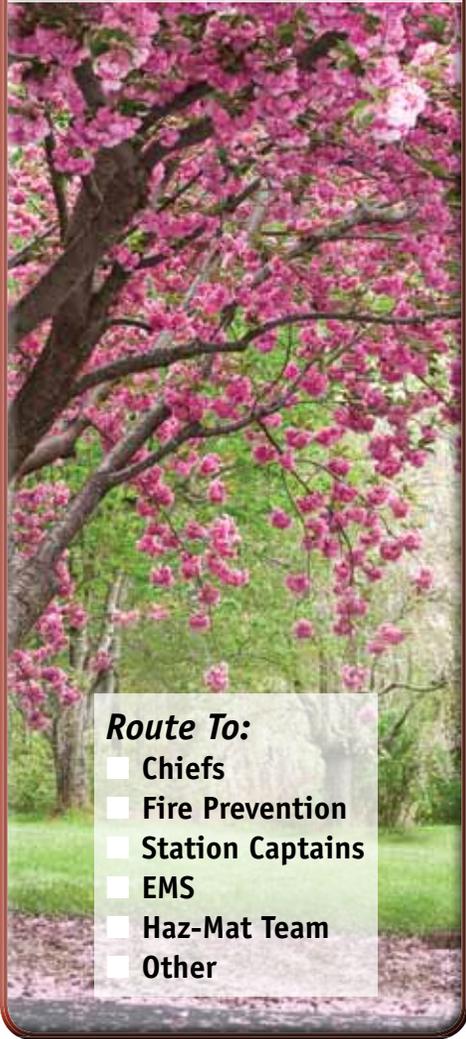


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- Route To:**
- Chiefs
 - Fire Prevention
 - Station Captains
 - EMS
 - Haz-Mat Team
 - Other



Community Implements Key Box Ordinance

MICHIGAN CITY, IN

The Michigan City Indiana Fire Department passed a key box entry ordinance that took effect January 1, 2010. With this ordinance, “any business with a fire alarm, sprinkler system or a combination of both must have a Knox-Box® key box installed.” Fire Inspector Kyle Kazmierczak shared their reason for adopting an ordinance. “We had found that we would spend numerous amounts of time at a commercial building waiting and sometimes they (the property manager or owner) wouldn’t show up. To alleviate this problem, we instituted this ordinance.”

Prior to passing the ordinance, Michigan City had tried several different methods of obtaining access without forcing entry. “We would get keys to businesses that had high hazard materials or sprinkler systems but it was just unmanageable. There were just numerous keys on a huge key ring. We tried assigning keys numbers to help identify them but that didn’t work. We also tried using small business card sized envelopes to store the keys with the businesses information on the outside and filed alphabetically but that also didn’t work. Having accountability for each business’ key was a big burden on the fire department. It was easier to institute a lock box program,” explained Kazmierczak.

Michigan City’s ordinance is retroactive in that it applies equally to new construction and existing businesses that

have a monitoring system or a sprinkler system. With the ordinance taking effect January 1, all businesses have one year to have a key box installed and the building’s keys locked inside. If a business does not comply with the ordinance, a citation of noncompliance will be issued and forwarded to the city’s attorney.



Michigan City firefighters during a training session on the new key box ordinance.

Passing an ordinance is no small feat. While Michigan City decided to couple this ordinance with another unrelated ordinance in the hopes that both would go through smoothly, if they had to do it again, they’d have handled the two unrelated ordinances separately. Their city council had a few issues with the unrelated ordinance which slowed the passing of both ordinances. Kazmierczak explained, “The ordinance would have gone through quicker if the two unrelated ordinances had been presented

EDITORIAL

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

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.

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.



Key Box Ordinance

MICHIGAN CITY, IN

Continued from Front Page

individually." In the end, it took seven months for the key box ordinance to pass and it passed 9-0 with no amendments. The unrelated ordinance ended up having to be amended before it passed.

After much review and analysis the department decided to not allow exemptions to the lock box ordinance. Exemptions would be difficult to manage and would defeat the purpose of the ordinance. "One exemption would make it too easy for others to also want an exemption," Kazmierczak said.

"In the long run, it's less expensive for a business owner to install a box. If the department had to break down a business' door, the cost of the door would far exceed the cost of the box," Kazmierczak commented.

Community outreach is an important component of Michigan City's implementation of the new key box ordinance. While the department's resources are limited, they have found several ways to communicate the ordinance to their businesses. Education is a huge part of the communication with businesses.

First, the department has several firefighters on light duty due to injury. These firefighters are going door-to-door

to all businesses and providing each business a packet of information on the new ordinance. This packet includes a copy of the ordinance, a letter from the fire marshal, the fire marshal's business card and instructions on how to obtain a Knox-Box key box.

These firefighters are able to explain what the box is and the positive benefits of the ordinance. Also, they explain the options available, including the option to have the key box with a tamper switch which can be wired to the business' burglar alarm. They also explain the accountability of the master key. While the firefighters are able to answer many questions, businesses are encouraged to contact the fire marshal if they have any questions.

The department also filmed a Q&A session for the local public access broadcast that plays on a regular basis. During this show, common questions from business owners are answered. The goal is to educate businesses on the benefits of the Knox-Box key box and how one can be obtained.

Michigan City Fire Department serves an approximately 21 square mile area from four stations. They have 85 full-time firefighters who are assisted by two civilian staff members. ◀



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Switching to Storz Connections



McKinney, Texas is experiencing rapid growth. As Fire Marshal John Nickles stated "We're a burgeoning community." This growth has led to a boom in construction. Recently, there has been a lot of FDC connection theft. FDC connections were an easy target for thieves. As a result, many connections were stolen from existing buildings, particularly apartment complexes and smaller, stand-alone office buildings where FDC's were located inconspicuously around the side or back of the property.



Stolen FDC connections are being replaced with Storz connections and Knox StorzGuard locking caps in McKinney, TX

Since the community was relatively young and growing, they had a unique opportunity. Since so many FDC connections were being stolen, they decided to explore what other options there might be for FDC connections. They found the 5" storz connections were more effective than multiple 2 1/2" connections for high demand systems and were rarely a target for thieves. As a result, storz connections became standard in all new

buildings with system demands at 500 GPM or greater.

"We have a unique opportunity because we're building," shared Nickles. "From an operations stand point, it takes less time to hook up to one 5" storz than multiple 2-1/2" FDC connections. So, new buildings with standpipe and sprinkler demands greater than 500 GPM are built with storz connections. Existing buildings and smaller new buildings have the 2-1/2" siamese connections."

Like most departments, McKinney conducts annual inspections of commercial buildings. When they're out in the community, if they see any FDC's or just caps missing from connections they will stop and investigate. "We stop when we see the caps are gone," Nickles stated.

"Making sure connections are available is important. If a connection is stolen or blocked with debris, it's of no use to responders. Our job is to make sure water is where they (firefighters) need it to be," explained Nickles.

"If the caps are missing or the connections full of trash, the consequences are high. If the water connection is compromised; connection missing, the building could burn down. There's also the safety of the firefighter to consider," Nickles elaborated. A building without water puts those fighting the fire at a disadvantage.

When McKinney first implemented the Knox FDC Program, they identified surrounding departments that might provide mutual aid. "We had to make sure they had the keywrench," Nickles stated. Next, they trained the department on the Knox Keywrench as well as the Knox locking plug and StorzGuard cap. "Training was very

simple; nothing formal. We gave the keys to the fire fighters and gave them a brief demonstration and turned them loose. We told them, "You're going to start seeing these on the connections." We also had taken many photos of missing connections and shared these during the training sessions," Nickles said. Responders will find both storz connections and 2-1/2" siamese connections in McKinney. The storz connections have a Knox StorzGuard while the siamese connections use the Knox locking FDC plug. McKinney only has to carry the one keywrench since both products are easily opened with the same Knox Keywrench.

"It's the absence of problems that proves the value of the system. It was a relatively small issue that was easily fixed. We believe in putting money into safety programs so that we don't have a catastrophic event," Nickles said.

McKinney Fire Department serves more than 60 square mile area with a staff of more than 150. This community within the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex has a population of more 121,000 and growing. 



Retrofit Fire Safety



Katy Freeway expansion completed October, 2008, courtesy Texas Dept. of Transportation.



It started in the late 19th century. As railroads spread across the country Americans became mobile. Westward expansion grew exponentially. Land was cheap. Not that long ago one dollar an acre land was plentiful in what now are the multi-million dollar sprawling metropolises of the Desert Southwest. Now, in the second decade of the 21st Century Americans are still on the move. Drive-times and driving commutes are up. One section of I-10 in Houston, the 'Katy Freeway' is now 26 lanes wide and accommodates several hundred thousand vehicles each day as people commute into the city. What once were medium-sized bedroom communities are now large stand alone cities with new malls, hospitals, and schools. Companies are moving to the suburbs to accommodate a workforce that is moving away from town. A new term "economic ghost town" is now used to describe once vibrant downtown areas that are vacant at night when all the workers have evacuated to the suburbs. In contrast, the high costs of new construction projects coupled with less available money from lending institutions and governmental incentives to revitalize the community have made remodeling and retrofitting older structures a more attractive option. With the current economy in a perpetual state of uncertainty, some companies may view an existing inner city structure as an attractive business development opportunity. Unfortunately, it is not as easy as turning on the lights and moving in. The older building will need to be updated, reconfigured in many cases and things like accommodations for impaired workers, OSHA requirements, and basic fire and life safety equipment will have to be retrofit into the structure.

What is a retrofit program?

In terms of fire and life safety a retrofit program is an attempt by the code officials to raise the level of safety and survivability of occupants and residents by requiring that older existing structures make modifications and additions that bring the structure to current accepted standards. What was once a small vacant office building on the edge of the central business district is now a sprinklered upscale condominium with a gated subterranean parking garage. This is important to fire officials because changes in occupancies will result in various additional fire prevention systems, including alarms, additional exiting requirements and more frequent inspection intervals.

Building Operating Management, an online magazine, recently published an article highlighting reasons why fire protection systems in buildings need to be part of any retrofit plan. Some of the reasons identified were:

- **Individual system components come to the end of their useful lives:** Vendors and repair facilities simply can not buy replacement parts to support systems that were cutting edge 10 years ago.
- **Changing life span of fire safety systems:** Systems that once had a design life of 40 years, now with the growth in technology, are outdated in 15.
- **Changes in occupancy or use:** It is important not to assume that the existing system will be sufficient for the new hazard. The sprinkler system that was adequate in 1970 for a small office building is simply not adequate in 2010 for a mixed use residential/ service/ retail configuration.



- **Outside Forces:** The article quotes a supervising engineer with a large construction/consulting company that suggests that even vandalism plays a role. He states; “The installed modules, like sensors and alarms, don’t normally wear out but have to be replaced due to vandalism or other damage or manufacturer recommendations...”



“Changes in Occupancy Classification of a building that trigger requirement for rapid entry or FDC protection insure that these structures meet accepted modern code standards.”



Benefits of a retrofit program

The benefits of a retrofit program as it relates to Knox products will be evident in several ways. Some are tactical for the responding crews and others will be realized in reduced operating costs to the public.

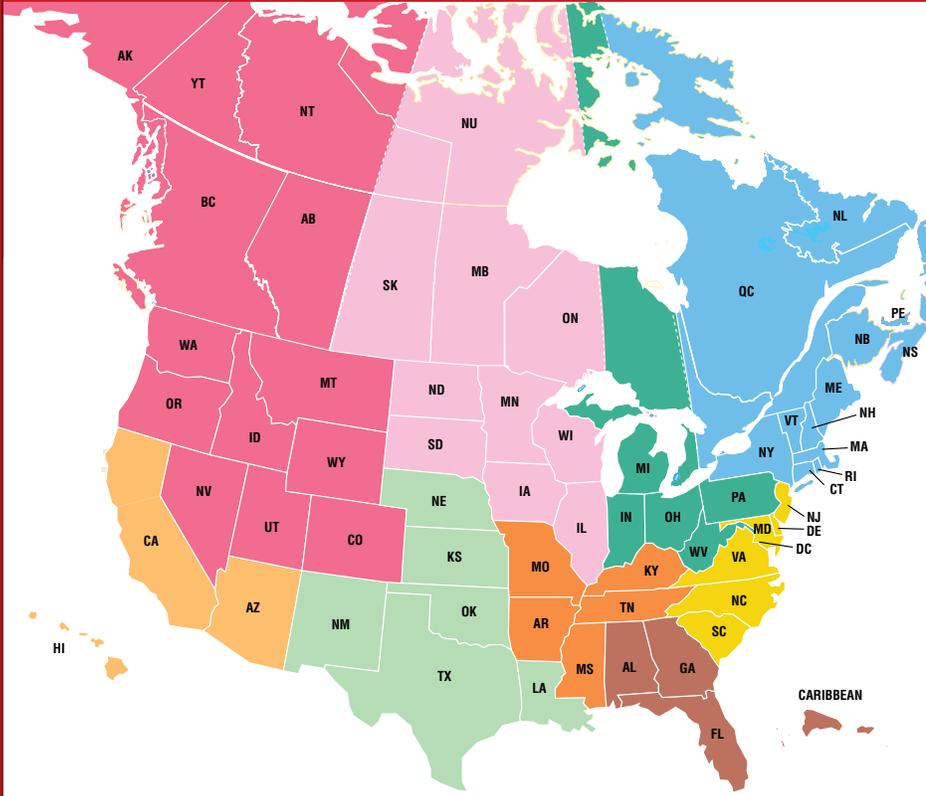
- All structures will be at the same level of protection
- Changes in Occupancy Classification of a building that trigger requirement for rapid entry or FDC protection insure that these structures meet accepted modern code standards
- Retrofitting a rapid entry key switch into a gated apartment complex will lower the response time of fire, EMS, and law enforcement
- Retrofitting a Knox Box with an override key near elevators will allow immediate control of elevators by firefighters and ensure compliance with new fire code requirements

- Retrofitting a Knox Box can help lower injuries to firefighters by lessening injury incidents during forcible entry
- Retrofitting a Knox Box will allow for a faster entry/evaluation when on scene which can reduce the need for additional equipment
- Individual fire department units get back into service quicker, thereby providing better service in that district
- Lower insurance costs. It is estimated that a retrofit sprinkler system will pay for itself within 10 years in saved insurance premiums
- Improved loss control to risk managers and property owners

The movement toward retrofitting existing buildings is on the rise. The trend of retrofitting existing structures can be very positive for a community. For the effort to be successful it takes a concerted effort from developers, city planners and fire prevention officers. Just passing an ordinance will not do it. It takes a commitment at every level to make the changes meaningful and lasting. As fire officials, you have to stay current on what is happening in your particular community. As your community changes, so will your needs. Take a look at your jurisdiction and evaluate your current and potential needs and develop long-term meaningful strategies to meet emerging needs. 



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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®, Sentralok® and MedVault® 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)**

Installation Reminder



Any security device **must** be well mounted in order to resist physical attack. Knox-Box® key boxes are inherently strong devices with the majority of the security components engineered into the product design, however, if mounted poorly, with inadequate fasteners or on flimsy mounting surfaces, the security of the product is quickly lost.

The Knox Company strongly encourages all departments to have all Knox-Box key boxes installed per the installation instructions. All Knox-Box key boxes are fully tested and listed by Underwriters Laboratories as antitheft devices. As an added layer of security, we offer an optional alarm tamper switch on all our boxes. When the tamper switch is connected to the building's burglar alarm system, an alarm is sounded if the box is opened with a key or removed from the wall. For maximum security, mount the unit in an area sheltered from excessive moisture, and always follow the installation instructions.

Always mount a Knox-Box to a solid concrete wall or weld to a secure steel beam. Any hollow wall must be built up from the reverse side to ensure against pull out if the box is attacked from the outside.

Regardless of the model, do not mount face down from ceiling or overhang area. The use of a licensed professional installer should be required. 

Ordering FDC Product

We have noticed that property owners are easily confused regarding which FDC product to order.



All 2.5 inch female threaded connections such as FDC inlets require a locking FDC plug (Knox part number 3011 or 3010 for NH threads, 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 3095 for 5" Storz or 3085 for 4" Storz).

When you are signing the authorization order form, please verify that the correct FDC product has been ordered. This will help to reduce the frustration some property owners have experienced when ordering the wrong product. Thanks for helping to make the purchasing experience for your customers go a little more smoothly. 

KNOX NEWS

Congratulations to our FDIC Weather Vane Winner!

Steve Marschang
Sterling Fire Dept
Sterling, IL



2010 Tradeshow Schedule

Show	Location	Dates
Fire Expo	Harrisburg, PA	May 21-23
Quebec Fire Chiefs	Quebec City, QC	May 22-25
Winnebago CO Fire Chiefs	South Beloit, IL	May 26
Washington Fire Chief	Spokane, WA	May 27-28
MS Fire Chiefs	Brandon, MS	June 4-6
British Columbia Fire Chiefs	Penticton, BC	June 6-10
NFPA	Las Vegas, NV	June 7-9
EMSCC	Lake Louise, AB	June 7-9
South Carolina	Mrytle Beach, SC	June 9-12
NY Fire 2010	Verona, NY	June 10-12
Maryland Convention	Ocean City, MD	June 14-16
Alberta Fire Chiefs	Edmonton, AB	June 19-23
New England Fire Rescue	West Springfield, MA	June 25-27
MO Valley	Colorado Springs, CO	July 7-9
Ohio Fire Chiefs	Sandusky, OH	July 17-18
Florida Fire Chiefs	Ponta Vedra, FL	July 16-20
NASFM	Chicago, IL	July 22-24
Firehouse Expo	Baltimore, MD	July 22-24
NC State Firemans	Raleigh, NC	August 11-14
Fire Rescue International	Chicago, IL	August 27-28
Canadian Fire Chief	Saint John, NB	Sept 19-22
EMS Expo	Dallas, TX	Sept 27-Oct 1

Now Showing : NEW Knox Elevator Box
Holds 2 Elevator Access tools AND up to 30 Keys
See next page



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NEW from Knox 1400 Series Knox® Elevator/Lobby Box

The New Knox Elevator Key Box is a UL 1037 Listed high security box designed specifically for the elevator lobby. The elevator box has room for 2 elevator door access tools and up to 30 keys. This UL listed key box offers superior resistance to physical attack than the average elevator key box. This all steel box comes standard in Deep Red with the “Fire Dept Use Only” banner as required by the IFC standard. Additional colors are available with or without the banner. The Knox Elevator key box can be keyed to a department’s existing Knox System. 



**Stores up to 2 elevator
door access tools
and up to 30 keys**

- 9 Key hooks standard
- 13 Key hook expansion panel available



Part	Color	Part Number	Price
Knox Elevator Box	Deep Red	1403	\$295.00
Knox Elevator Box with Tamper Switch	Deep Red	1404	\$335.00

Standard color is Deep Red with “Fire Dept. Use Only” banner to meet latest IFC standard. Bronze and Aluminum colors also available with or without FD banner. Call Factory for details.