



Scott M. Jalbert, Unit Chief

## Standard 5 Gates

### Scope

The scope of this standard is to establish consistent requirements for immediate emergency access for all residential and commercial properties with fences and gates that restrict required Fire Department access.

### Requirements

All gates for residential and commercial use shall meet Section 503.5 of the 2016 California Fire Code requirements for access. KNOX switches or padlocks are the only approved method of emergency access. The use of a red “Fire Dept” access box is not allowed for either residential or commercial use due to security concerns and difficulty in maintaining current data.



**Not allowed**

The following requirements must be met:

1. All gates shall be set back from the road a minimum of 30 feet from the edge of the roadway. The gate shall open to allow a vehicle to stop without obstructing traffic on the public road. Local ordinance, certain conditions or San Luis Obispo County Public Works may require a greater setback.
2. All gates shall be 2 feet wider on each side of the road / driveway.
3. All electric gates shall automatically open with no special knowledge upon exiting.
4. All electric gates shall have a KNOX switch for emergency Fire Department access.
5. All electric gates shall have an approved means of emergency operation at all times, either using solar power, battery back-up or fail to the open position upon a power outage.
6. Security gates and their emergency operation shall be maintained operational at all times.

7. Gates designed for automatic operation shall be designed, constructed and installed to comply with the requirements of ASTM F2200.
8. Residential non-electric gates may be secured by a padlock.
9. Commercial non-electric gates shall be secured by a KNOX padlock.

### **KNOX Products**

You must obtain a KNOX order form from *CAL FIRE*. The KNOX Company will not process any order without an official KNOX Authorization Order Form, complete with an authorized signature from approved *CAL FIRE* staff. You can request a KNOX form by calling (805) 593-3490 or mailing the [KNOX request form](#). The links below will give you information on commonly used products and current prices.

[<Link to Knox Information>](#)

[<Link to Knox 2017 prices>](#)

Once the KNOX key box or gate switch has been installed, and/or KNOX padlock received, contact the Fire Prevention Office at (805) 593-3490. An inspector will respond to lock your key(s) and/or other important information in the KNOX box or test the gate switch to ensure it has been installed correctly.