



City of Grand Prairie Fire Department Fire Code Regulations

Building Access

In any of the following circumstances, a key box called a “KnoxBox™” shall be installed in an accessible location:

- (1) Any building with a fixed fire protection system installed
- (2) Access to or within a structure or an area is unduly difficult because of secured openings
- (3) Immediate access is necessary for lifesaving or firefighting
- (4) At the discretion of the owner or occupant, if desired

All boxes must be manufactured by the Knox® Company, keyed for the specially registered key possessed by the fire department and carried on all fire apparatus. No other type of key box is permitted.

All boxes shall be purchased online through the Knox® Company at www.knoxbox.com. Be sure to specify the city of Grand Prairie, Texas, when ordering. Proper installation and maintenance is the responsibility of the building owner/occupant.

Boxes shall be mounted adjacent to those doors with the best access for emergency service (fire sprinkler riser rooms). The alternate location, if that is not possible, is adjacent to the main entry doors. Consideration shall be given to the locations of fire lanes and inside control rooms. Purchase and mounting of multiple boxes is allowed, and should be considered for large buildings.

It is strongly recommended that the red adhesive labels provided with the boxes be placed on the door, close to the locking mechanism or on the corner to prevent damage caused by forced entry.

The box shall never be further than ten (10) feet from the door. Boxes must be mounted between two (2) feet and six (6) feet above the ground surface.

Access to boxes shall not be visually obstructed by landscaping or architectural elements. Consider changes during the life of the building such as landscaping vegetation growing taller, or functional/decorative elements, such as benches.

Key boxes can be supervised by an electronic security system to detect a possible unauthorized entry, however, the boxes have undergone extensive testing as part of the UL® listing process and it has never been possible to open one without the key.

Keys necessary for building entry shall be placed inside the KnoxBox™. Multiple sets of keys are recommended, and sometimes required for large buildings. Each key shall be labeled. These keys shall be kept current by the owner/occupant, and the fire department notified to change them when locks are re-keyed.

Exterior doors and openings required by code shall be maintained readily accessible for emergency access by the fire department. Required fire department access doors shall not be obstructed or eliminated.