



RAPID ACCESS

Volume XV
Issue 4

Holiday 2008

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During this holiday season, we want to take the opportunity to thank you for believing in the value of the Knox Rapid Entry System and for your contribution to the Knox program in your community. We wish you the very best for the New Year.

Merry Christmas!

*Sincerely,
The Knox Team*



JUNEAU, AK

Weather-Tested FDCs

Capital City Fire Rescue in Juneau Alaska first implemented the Knox Rapid Entry System in 1979. Over the years, their program has grown to include boxes and FDC locking plugs. Three years ago Juneau adopted an ordinance requiring buildings with a fire sprinkler system to have locking FDC plugs on all street level FDCs. "All commercial structures receive a 2½% property tax break for having an operating sprinkler system. For a system to be classified as operating, the sprinkler system must be inspected annually by an approved sprinkler contractor and have a locking cap installed if the FDCs are located on the street level. The locking plugs became mandatory at the time of the building's annual inspection following the passage of the ordinance," Fire Marshal Richard Etheridge said.

"Education has been the key to the success of the program. We started with the sprinkler contractors explaining the purpose and benefit of the locking plugs," shared Etheridge. "Then we sent letters to property owners we knew had sprinkler systems."

Each response vehicle has been issued a Keywrench. Additionally, the fire department authorized approved sprinkler contractors to receive keywrenches so they

are able to conduct the installation and annual inspection of the sprinkler system. While Juneau does have a wet climate with the occasional freezing temperature, the locking caps have not experienced any negative effects from weather. "We haven't had a problem with freezing caps. The city does require all systems to have a ball drip to allow water within the system to drain," explained Etheridge.

The locking FDC plugs have been well received. Prior to their installation, there



Chief Mohrmann & Douglas station volunteers

were many open connections that were being used as trash receptacles. It was very common to see pop cans and cigarette butts in the open connections. "The locking plugs have been a big improvement," Etheridge stated.

To help with training, the department installed the locking plugs on all fire

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CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS



The Knox Company will be closed for the holidays beginning Friday, December 19, 2008 through Friday, January 2, 2009 and will be re-opening on Monday, January 5, 2009. Thursday, December 18, 2008 will be the last full shipping day prior to the holiday shutdown.

Happy New Year!



Publisher
Knox Company

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NEW Knox StorzGuard™ Kits

4" StorzGuard™



5" StorzGuard™



The Knox Company now offers StorzGuard™ kits comprised of a Storz mounting adapter to fit the building pipe and a locking Knox StorzGuard cap. The forged adapters have a hard anodized aluminum metal face and are available in both 4" and 5" configurations. The adapters are available in straight or 30 degree elbow configurations that connect to 4" and 6" National Pipe Thread (NPT). Each adapter includes 3 heavy duty stainless steel set screws. The adapters are compliant with the DIN Standard and NFPA 1963 Standard for Fire Hose Connections. Forged aluminum connections provide for greater firefighter safety.

The water-tight locking StorzGuard prevents trash and debris from being stuffed into uncovered connections. The Knox StorzGuard protects storz connections on fire hydrants and water based fire protection systems such as sprinkler intakes. The easy-on, easy-off locking cap also provides protection against connection lug damage. Additionally, it protects against water theft – a growing concern for many communities. The new cap works on all gasket types and metal faced finishes. The Knox StorzGuard is available in both 4" and 5" configuration.

U.S. Made Storz Adapters and StorzGuard caps are available in turn key kits or individually.

30° Adapter



Straight Adapter



Protecting Historic Buildings

MANISTEE, MI



Historic buildings pose a unique challenge for fire departments.

Historical societies or architectural committees want to keep the buildings as close to their original designs as possible. Fire departments want to install the latest firefighting tools to help make their job easier and to provide the greatest protections to the buildings. Manistee Michigan Fire Department found a way for the two sides to work together to find an agreeable solution.

The Manistee Fire Department wanted to install a Knox-Box on all commercial buildings to assist with rapid entry, reduce response times and minimize firefighter injury. The biggest obstacle in achieving this goal is that Manistee's downtown district retains many of the original buildings from the Victorian era. These buildings are part of a historic district and all buildings within the commercial historic district must receive approval


for any alterations to the exterior of the buildings – including adding a Knox-Box.

Forced entry results in damage to a building. For a historic building the damage is even of greater concern since it is very difficult and costly to repair historic buildings. The fire department felt strongly that each of the historic buildings needed a Knox-Box to help preserve them in case of a fire. With a Knox-Box, the fire department would be able to enter more quickly without causing additional damage to the building.

The Manistee's code enforcement office worked the historical architectural committee to devise a plan for each building to have a Knox-Box. To start, the code enforcement office took photos of each historic building. Next, they met with the historical architectural committee to review the Knox Program and work with them on a solution. While the architectural committee does not own the buildings, all changes to exterior must

be approved by them. Since each historic building is very unique, they reviewed the photos of the buildings, one building at a time. Together they came up with a location that would be appropriate for the Knox-Box. Each photo was labeled with a button showing the agreed location.

The code enforcement office now has a file of 75 historic buildings showing the agreed upon location for the Knox-Box. The code enforcement office is now working with the building owners to have a Knox-Box installed.

The City of Manistee in Michigan is very proud of its long history. The fire department first began serving the community in 1873 and serves a population of 7600 in a 3.86 square mile area. The fire department has been housed in the same firehouse since 1889. Besides the firehouse, the downtown district retains many of the original buildings from the Victorian era. 



Fire Prevention: Doing More With Less



The very nature of fire suppression is reactive. Firefighters train and prepare, but then have to sit and wait until something catastrophic happens in someone's life before they are called into action. Today, like never before, fire departments are operating with ever shrinking budgets and are dealing with forced station closures and manpower cuts. In an era when departments are spread thin from the responsibilities of Suppression and EMS, the battle to balance all competing interests is daunting. In an article published on the Fire Rescue 1 website, IAFC Treasurer, Chief Bill Metcalf, stated: "Every fire chief I've talked to is being told by their bosses or figuring it out for themselves that they need to find ways to reduce expenses. The current situation is calling for new approaches, creative thinking and for us chiefs as leaders to lead in a way we have not had to do for a long, long time."

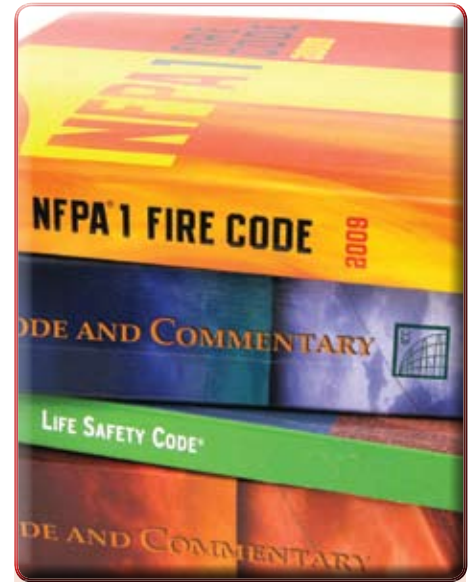
The units within the organization that usually wind up as the first casualties of the financial struggle, with diminished budgets and manpower, are Fire Prevention, and Public Education. In many instances, Prevention and Pub Ed are the only proactive life saving outreach programs in the entire community. What can departments do? This is not a simple subject with any easy answers. Many fire service professionals feel it is nearly impossible for a full service fire department to balance the absolute requirements of Operations and EMS and still support an active prevention program. Here are some suggestions that might have an impact on the effectiveness of your prevention outreach.

Value of Model Codes

Consider adopting and enforcing a model fire and building code. Adopting and enforcing a model code offers a cost-effective method of protecting lives and property. It is also the cornerstone of modern proactive fire prevention. When enforced, the fire code will offset the negative impacts of a fire, both physical and economic, protect the occupants, and lessen the dangers to responders who are asked to mitigate the situation. Proactive fire prevention activities will almost always reduce both the numbers of fires and the inherit damage caused when they do occur. Fire codes have other economic advantages as well. As fire related dollar loss decreases so does the burden on the taxpayers and the infrastructure. An example would be adopting a key box or FDC protection program. The concept of a key box for rapid entry has been part of all of the model codes for years. Employing a rapid entry system can help reduce initial response times and injuries during forcible entry. Additionally, protecting sprinkler FDCs can help ensure that the fire sprinkler system intake is clear of debris and functioning properly. Both 2009 NFPA #1 Uniform Fire Code and the International Fire Code and Building Code have addressed the hazard of open, exposed FDCs by adding provisions that allow local jurisdictions to require locking FDC plugs and caps.

Adopt a Local Ordinance

Once you have adopted a model code, use it to enhance the effectiveness of your prevention activities. Communities all across the country have a multitude of ordinances that address issues like tree preservation and the length of a



Adopting and enforcing a model code offers a cost-effective method of protecting lives and property. It is also the cornerstone of modern proactive fire prevention.

dog leash, but have none that address the safety of structures and survivability of occupants. Adopting a local ordinance that addresses emergency access and sprinkler system protection will have a minimal impact on the community. It will offer a higher level of survivability and sustainability to the citizens. Either through separate document or embedded in your code adoption and amendment process, local key box or FDC ordinance is a simple, cost effective way to have a dramatic impact on the community. Once the proposed legislation or bundled code amendment is adopted it becomes part of the city's official Code of Ordinances and is enforceable law.

Retrofitting Existing Buildings

In the long history of fire prevention & protection in America, there have been many occasions where fire and life safety officials have taken major steps to enhance the level of survivability of occupants in a fire scenario by requiring that business owners make substantial changes to existing structures and occupancies. Unfortunately, most of these changes have come as a result of catastrophic high-fatality fires that prompted a public outcry. Some fire officials will say that they do not have the authority to require modifications to older, existing structures. History does not support this position. There are countless examples each year of fire officials that have to answer questions as to why they failed to act to mitigate potential dangerous situations. In many cases fire and building officials are just one significant incident away from being forced through legislation to make major changes. An example is the Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990. As a result of the devastating MGM Grand fire of 1980 that took 85 lives, this Act was intended to save lives and protect property by promoting fire and life safety in hotels, motels and other places of public accommodation. This law serves to remind everyone associated with fire prevention and life safety that we must recognize changing trends and work to make occupancies safer and more survivable. Just passing legislation geared toward retrofitting fire prevention components is not enough. It takes a concerted effort at every level from the elected officials, the design/installation professionals,

to the individual inspector that ensures compliance, to make retroactive changes meaningful. The safety sustainability of older structures, including historic buildings, can be enhanced by retrofitting proven safety devices. Remember: The life you save may very well be that young firefighter just starting out in his/her career.

Partnerships

In an era of shrinking budgets and competing interests, it is important to get the most out of any investment of time and resources. It makes good sense to partner with other professionals to look for methods and practices that serve the common good. Look for professional organizations that share your commitment to prevention, join the effort and help advance the cause. One example Vision



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20/20, The National Strategic Agenda for Fire Loss Prevention utilizes these same principals. Managed by Jim Crawford, Fire Marshal in Vancouver, WA and Peg Carson, of Carson Associates, Ed Comeau, of writer-tech.com, and Bill Kehoe, representing the Institute of Fire Engineers, US Branch,

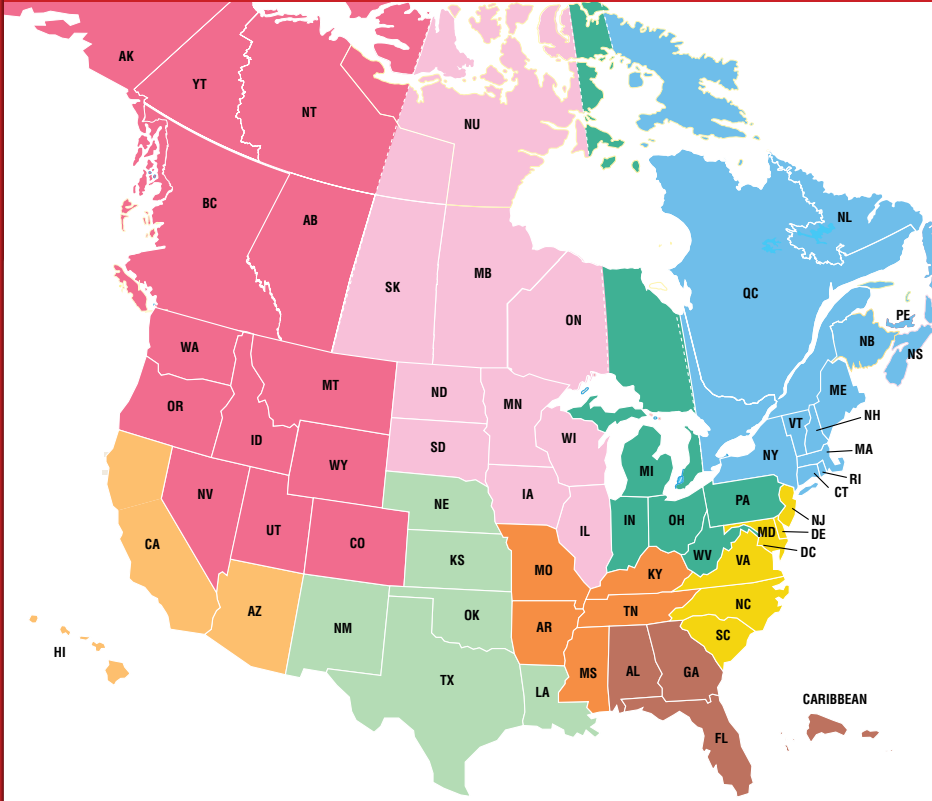
this organization has a monumental goal; Guide a national strategic planning process for the fire loss prevention that results in a national plan that will coordinate activities and fire prevention efforts. Working on a mostly voluntary basis with organizations like NFPA, and the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), these professionals are dedicated to the concept of protecting lives and property through proactive, focused fire prevention activities. The project was made possible by a grant from the Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grants. The collaborative nature of the planning process is an example of how organizations can work together when they have the desire and the support to do so.

Doing more with less. Those words have been part of the fire service for years. While they may be appropriate, they should not be a justification for discontinuing effective life saving programs. A proactive prevention effort has always been important to the total service cities provide to the citizens. In light of changing trends and emerging threats, it is now vital. It will take a total effort of your entire department along with willing volunteer groups to meet the challenge. It is important that you look for areas of vulnerability and implement programs and new legislation to meet the needs. ❏

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Wonderful 2009.



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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® and Sentralok® 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)

Weather-Tested

Continued from Front Page

stations. “This gives the firefighters the opportunity to practice installing and removing the plugs,” said Etheridge.

Juneau was originally a mining town established in the 1880s. Many buildings in the downtown district date back to the town’s early days. These historic buildings help preserve Juneau’s history. The downtown historic district has design standards intended to preserve the areas character. Many of these historic buildings have a Knox-Box. The Knox-Box allows the fire fighters to enter quickly and respond to fires within the buildings. “Many of the buildings in the historic district have virtually no clearance between buildings. A fire could spread quickly once it starts making it difficult to contain,” Etheridge explained. The fire department decided to install a Knox-Box on these buildings to help expedite a response. “While the historic district has design standards, the Knox-Box is considered a life safety device,” stated Etheridge. Therefore, the fire department can require the box to be installed on these historic buildings without the approval of the design review board.

Capital City Fire Rescue provides protection to the city and borough of Juneau Alaska. Juneau Borough encompasses more than 2,000 square miles, covering more land area than some small eastern states. Juneau is the capital of Alaska and receives approximately 800,000 visitors each summer. Since Juneau is only accessible via sea or air, mutual aid is a day away rather than minutes or hours. They must be prepared for just about anything. This combination department has 33 career and 60 volunteer firefighters who work out of five stations. 

2009 Authorization Order Forms

Your supply of new authorization forms for 2009 are scheduled to begin arriving the week of December 15th. We ask that all orders submitted to the Knox Company in 2009 be on this new form otherwise orders may be delayed. Please discard outdated forms once your new forms arrive to avoid order delays.

If you require more than the ten forms provided, give us a call at 800-552-5669, extension 6 to request additional forms.

Thanks for your help and cooperation!



KNOX NEWS

2009 Tradeshow Schedule

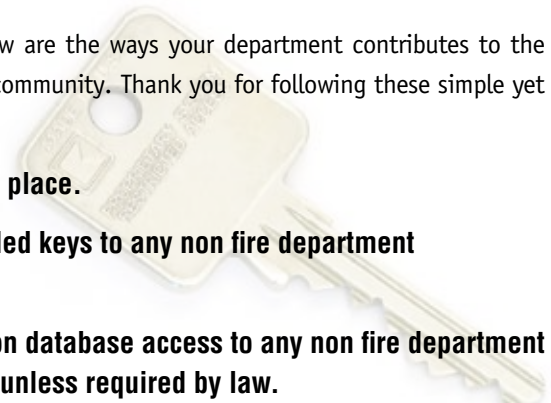
Show	Location	Dates
Mega Show	January 24-25	Uniondale, NY
MidWest EMS	January 28-31	Milwaukee, WI
Fire Rescue East	January 29-31	Dayton Beach, FL
Missouri Winter Fire School & Expo	February 6	Columbia, MO
New York State Towns	February 15-17	New York, NY
Firehouse World	February 16-19	San Diego, CA
Southwest Fire Rescue	February 16-19	Austin, TX
Virginia Fire Chiefs	February 19-21	Virginia Beach, VA
Washington State Fire Training	February 24	Wenatchee, WA
CO ICC	March 2-6	Denver, CO
California Fire Prevention Institute	March 18	Buellton, CA
Industrial Fire World	March 23-24	Beaumont, TX
EMS Today	March 27-28	Baltimore, MD
Southeastern Michigan Fire Chiefs	April 8	Novi, MI
South Carolina EMS Symposium	April 15-18	Myrtle Beach, SC
Oregon Fire Chiefs	April 16-18	Bend, OR
FDIC	April 20-25	Indianapolis, IN
Saskatchewan Fire Chiefs	April 23-26	Prince Albert, SK
NFSA	April 29-May 2	Orlando, FL

The Key to a Secure System

Knox System security is always important. Protecting the Knox® Master Key and documents listing installation addresses helps ensure that the Knox System is solely for the benefit of your department.

The four security steps listed below are the ways your department contributes to the security of the Knox program in your community. Thank you for following these simple yet important rules.

1. Keep all Knox keys in a secure place.
2. Do not release the Knox provided keys to any non fire department or law enforcement personnel.
3. Do not provide Knox installation database access to any non fire department or law enforcement personnel unless required by law.
4. Notify Knox immediately of loss, theft or attempted duplication of any key.



KNOX
Serving Fire Departments Since 1975

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Knox® FDC Plug with Swivel-Guard™

FIGHT SWIVEL THEFT IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

For those areas that have experienced theft of Siamese swivels, Knox Company has developed a new Knox FDC plug with Swivel-Guard™ that covers the entire swivel, minimizing the potential of the connection being stolen. With Swivel-Guard™, the set screw is no longer accessible making it more difficult to remove the brass swivel. The new locking FDC plug with Swivel-Guard™ still provides protection against thread damage, and prevents trash and debris from being lodged into uncovered connections.

The Knox FDC plug with Swivel-Guard™ is designed for a 2-1/2" connection with NH threads; however, other thread sizes are available.

The Knox FDC plug with Swivel-Guard™ compliments the full line of locking FDC products helping ensure departments have access to the connections when they need them most. All locking FDC's are easily accessed with a Knox Keywrench controlled by the fire department. 



To learn more about Swivel-Guard, contact your account manager or visit www.knoxbox.com.



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