

## **Ordinance # 17-01**

### **Gate Access**

#### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT CREATING ACCESS STANDARDS THROUGH GATES TO ANY STRUCTURE, RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL, IN THE JURISDICTION OF THE SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT, AND PROVIDES FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the South Walton Fire District is frequently called to respond to incidents but are unable to obtain access to certain commercial structures, neighborhood subdivisions, resorts or communities due to the premises being obstructed by a security gate. The absence of a 24-hour guard, the numerous "gate codes", specific keys, access cards and the unreliability of the siren activation all hinder (sometimes severely) the response of South Walton Fire District and create a substantial public safety concern.

**WHEREAS**, the absence of the correct codes, specific keys, access cards, etc. to gain access to the structure often leads to delayed responses and results in the necessity of members of the South Walton Fire District to forcibly gain entry which can lead to damaged property and equipment and increased risk of injury to said members.

**WHEREAS**, installation of a security device commonly known in the fire service as a "Knox Key Switch" would eliminate the need for codes, specific keys, access cards, siren activation, etc. by allowing fire district members access to gated structures/communities by use of the Knox Key to over-ride the gate system during emergency and non-emergency operations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the South Walton Board of Fire

Commissioners of Walton County, Florida as follows:

#### **SECTION 1 – SECURITY GATE REVIEW**

All proposed security gates shall be submitted for review by the South Walton Fire District Life/Safety Division prior to installation. At a minimum, a construction drawing displaying the location of the gate, access dimensions and gate type, shall be included in the drawing.

## **SECTION 2 – ACCESS REQUIREMENTS**

All proposed new gates shall meet SWFD approval and shall require the installation of a "Knox Key Switch" upon completion.

Once all existing security gates, including those with 24-hour security, without the Knox Key Switch system have been identified, the owner/occupant(s) or representative(s) shall have six (6) months from the date of notification by South Walton Fire District Officials to install the "Knox Key Switch" to their gate(s). Notification shall be by hand delivery, U.S. Mail or electronic mail (email) to the owner/occupant(s) or representative(s).

## **SECTION 3 - On-Site Testing**

Once the "Knox Key Switch" is installed the owner/occupant(s) or representative(s) shall notify the South Walton Fire District Life/Safety Division to schedule an "On-Site Test" of the switch. If the test meets the requirements, the gate will be accepted and entered into the South Walton Fire District Life/ Safety Division Database.

The owner/occupant(s) or representative(s) shall be responsible for the maintenance, repair and upkeep of the "Knox Key Switch", the equipment, and any upgrades that are necessary to expedite the SWFD emergency response access to said property.

## **SECTION 4 – FINAL INSPECTION**

Installation of the "Knox Key Switch" shall not be considered complete until an inspection is conducted by the South Walton Fire District's Fire Marshal or his/her designee.

**ADOPTED** by the South Walton Fire District Board of Commissioners at a regular monthly meeting of the South Walton Fire District Board of Commissioners of Walton County, Florida held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2017 to be effective October 9, 2017.

**South Walton Fire District, Walton County, Florida**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maurice Gilbert, SWFD Board Chairman

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Date