



Travis County ESD No. 12

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FIRE LANE/ FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROAD GATE REQUIREMENTS

FOR GATES SECURING A FIRE LANE OR FIRE ACCESS ROAD AT THE ENTRANCE TO A SUBDIVISION, MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OR A COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT, THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS SHALL APPLY:

- A single gate serving two-way traffic shall be a minimum unobstructed width of 25 feet.
- When two gates are installed and each only serves one direction of travel, they shall have 15 feet of clear open width each.
- The gate(s) shall be of the swinging or sliding type.
- The gate(s) shall be an electronic operating gate.
- The gate control shall be operable with a Knox Gate Key Switch keyed for Travis County ESD No. 12 and identified with a **KNOX** sign as described on the TCESD No. 12 website.
- A manual override shall require that gates open fully until normal power is restored.
- Fire access roads shall have an unobstructed vertical clearance of at least 14 feet as amended by TCESD No. 12.

IN THE EVENT OF LOSS OF POWER TO THE GATE OPENING MECHANISM, THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS SHALL APPLY:

- The gate shall be automatically transferred to a fail-safe mode allowing the gate to be pushed open by a single firefighter without any other actions, knowledge, or manipulation of the operating mechanism being necessary and without the use of battery back-up power (see exception) below. *The manufacturer's specification sheet demonstrating compliance with this method of operation during power loss shall be provided or scanned directly onto the plan.*
- A battery may only be used in place of fail-safe manual operation when the gate operator has a fail-open mode that will automatically, immediately, and completely open the gate and keep it open upon reaching a low power threshold, regardless of the presence of normal power.
- If a single firefighter is unable to open the gate manually, a secondary source of reliable power by means of an emergency generator or a capacitor with enough power reserve to automatically, immediately, and completely open the gate upon loss of primary power shall be provided for fail-open operation.
- A capacitor, but not a battery, may also be used for fail-open operation where the gate operating mechanism does not have a fail-safe mode.
- Upon activation of the Knox Gate Key Switch, the gate shall open and remain open until returned to normal operation by means of the key switch. Where a gate consists of two leaves, the key switch shall open both simultaneously if operation of a single leaf on the ingress side does not provide for the width, turning radii, or setbacks necessary for fire apparatus to navigate the vehicle entry point.

IF A MANUAL SWING VEHICLE SECURITY GATE IS INSTALLED, THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS SHALL APPLY:

- It shall be provided with a Knox Padlock keyed specifically for Travis County ESD No. 12 to provide access for fire personnel in an emergency situation.
- The location of the installation of a manual swing gate potentially affecting emergency response shall be at the discretion of the Travis County ESD No. 12 Fire Marshal.
- A **KNOX** sign shall be posted on the gate swing arm or at a location designated by the fire code official.

Additional fire apparatus access road gate requirements can be found in 2015 International Fire Code, Section D103.5.