



DEKALB COUNTY FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

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Fire Marshal Division-Chief Joseph K. Cox, Fire Marshal
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GATE POLICY

Provide information that is checked in the box as indicated below:

THESE ARE RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR GATE PROCEDURES

- A. D103.5 Fire apparatus access road gates. Gates securing the fire apparatus access roads shall comply with all of the following criteria:
- B. Gates shall be of the swinging or sliding type.
- C. Construction of gates shall be of materials that allow manual operation by one person.
- D. Gate components shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times and replaced or repaired when defective.
- E. Electric gates shall be equipped with a manual means of opening the gate by fire department personnel for emergency access. Optional electronic emergency opening devices may be used in addition to the required manual device and shall be approved by the Fire Marshal.
- F. Manual opening gates shall not be locked with a padlock or chain and padlock unless they are capable of being opened by means of forcible entry tools.
- G. Locking devices specifications shall be submitted for approval by the code official.

SECURITY GATE/BARRIER INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

I. All Gates

- A. All commercial gates on fire department access roads shall have a clear width of **20'** for vehicle access. Security gates for Residential occupancies, other than one and two family dwellings, where the building contains more than 4 units shall have a clear width of **14'**.
- B. All gates shall not be located closer than **35'** of the parallel street to ensure safe ingress and egress.
- C. Fire Services will not be responsible for securing the gate on the property.
- D. All Gates shall have signage indicating gate direction of travel.
- E. All obstructions in vehicle path shall be enclosed in protective material to prevent vehicle damage, striped so it will be visible at night.
- F. **Damage to Fire Apparatus:**
 - 1. A letter shall be submitted to the Fire Marshal indicating that any damage to emergency apparatus caused by security gates or barriers shall be the responsibility of the property owner.

II. Power Assisted Gates

- A. **Gamewell Lock Boxes Required per 2012 Int'l. Fire Code (IFC), Sect.506:**
 - 1. The universal Gamewell key box is the only acceptable device to which DKFR personnel have key access.
 - 2. Gamewell key boxes can be purchased at any elevator service company.

- LOCK BOXES SHALL OTHERWISE BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF IFC. SECT 506.1 THRU 506.2

B. Gate Operational Features:

1. Toggle switch to operate the Gate:
 - a. A toggle switch shall be used to operate the gate and to override the power supply.
 - b. In case of a power failure, access to the properties is still to be provided. The gate must be operable by hand when power is interrupted.
 - c. Electric gates will have battery backup so toggle switch is kept active.
 - d. Hydraulic gates shall have emergency button or knob to release pressure. It shall be located near the arm, and one shutoff is required for each arm.
 - e. Provide information on the operational features of the gate to the Fire Department.
 - f. Operational features must be approved prior to installation of the security gates.
 - g. When gates are opened for emergency access, they shall remain open until it reactivates.

C. Delayed Response:

1. A letter shall be submitted to the Fire Marshal indicting that the Fire Department shall not be held responsible for delayed response due to gaining access through security barriers.

III. Gravity Gates (Free Swinging Gates)

A. Locking Devices:

1. Pad locks are acceptable if not of case hardened metals.
2. Gates shall be installed to allow fire apparatus to access the property and open any gates and not impede the flow of traffic. (This includes a sufficient distance to allow gates to open if swinging in the direction of the fire apparatus.

B. Delayed Response:

1. A letter shall be submitted to the Fire Marshal indicating that the Fire Department shall not be held responsible for delayed responses due to gaining access through security barriers.

IV. Chain and Pole Security Barriers

A. Chains and Pole Barriers are acceptable:

1. Approval will be granted on an individual basis.
2. When approved, case hardened metals shall not be utilized.
3. For emergency access, the chain or lock will be cut by the Fire Department.

B. Delayed Responses:

1. A letter shall be submitted to the Fire Marshal indicating that the Fire Department shall not be held responsible for delayed responses due to gaining access through security barriers.

V. Break Away Security Gate (Arm)

A. Operational Features of arm:

1. When raised, arm must remain raised until reset for normal operation.
2. Mechanism for overriding the gate must be accessible to the fire department.

B. Delayed Response:

1. A letter shall be submitted to the Fire Marshal indicating that the Fire Department shall not be held responsible for delayed response due to gaining access through security barriers.

** Per 2012 IFC – Appendix D (Sec.103.5) adopted by DKFR SVCS Jan 2007*