



# STATESVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

822 Fifth St, Statesville, NC 28677  
Phone: 704-878-3401

# Knox Box Requirements

## North Carolina Fire Code

**506.1 Where required.** Where access to or within a structure or an area is restricted because of secured openings or where immediate access is necessary for life-saving or fire-fighting purposes, the fire code official is authorized to require a key box to be installed in an approved location. The key box shall be of an approved type and shall contain keys to gain necessary access as required by the fire code official.

**506.1.1 Locks.** An approved lock shall be installed on gates or similar barriers when required by the fire code official.

**506.2 Key box maintenance.** The operator of the building shall immediately notify the fire code official and provide the new key when a lock is changed or rekeyed. The key to such lock shall be secured in the key box.

**607.4 Elevator keys.** Keys for the elevator car doors and fire-fighter service keys shall be kept in an approved location for immediate use by the fire department.

In order to allow rapid entry to properties for firefighters, Statesville Fire Rescue uses a designated key box and proprietary key system, utilizing the Knox Rapid Entry System. The Knox Rapid Entry System includes devices such as key boxes, key pads, pad locks, and key switches.

The following properties are required to utilize the Knox Rapid Entry System:

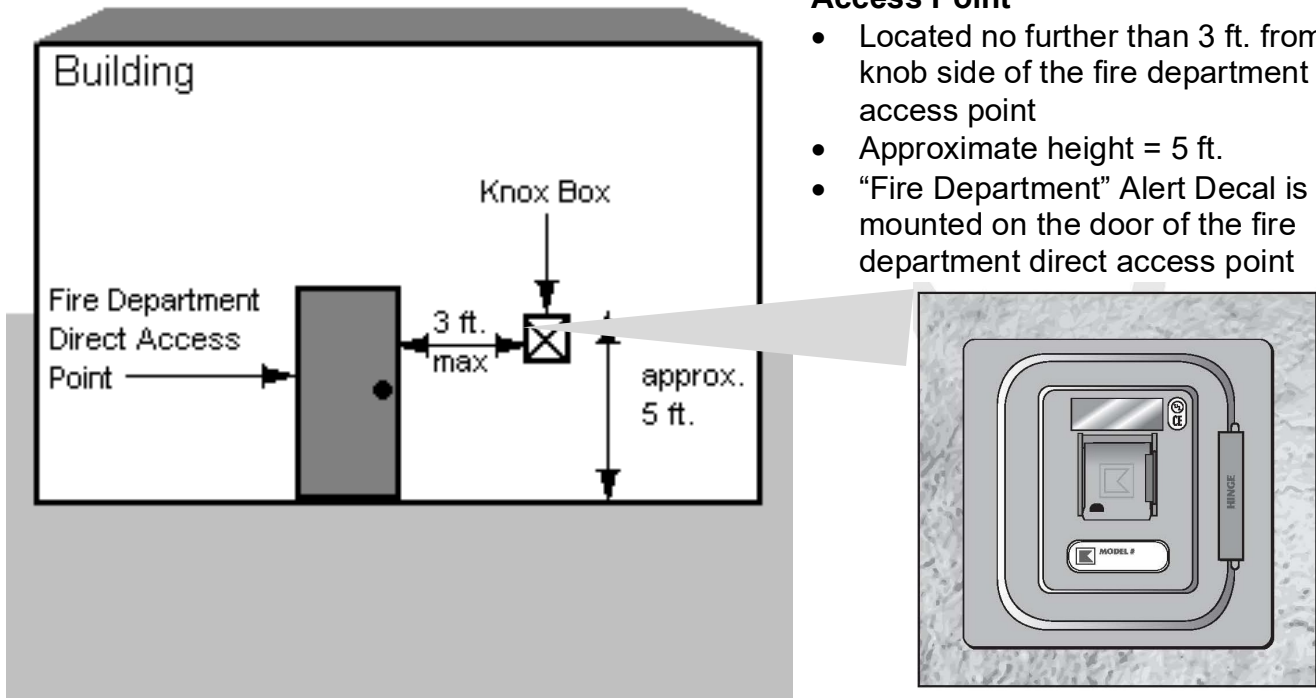
- High-rise buildings
- Gated communities
- Commercial businesses that use, store, manufacture or process on site hazardous materials
- Buildings equipped with fire sprinkler systems and/or fire alarm systems
- Buildings with elevators
- Commercial properties or structures with gates obstructing fire department access
- Other properties or structures where fire department access would be delayed as determined by the fire code official

Knox boxes shall be installed near the fire department direct access point (as determined by the fire code official), and at a location and height that allow them to be readily accessible. Circumstances such as the size of the property, nature of any hazards, etc., may warrant the need for additional Knox boxes to be located on the same property. The Knox Box shall be dark bronze in color.

If the building has an elevator, a separate Knox Elevator/Lobby Box shall be required. The Knox Elevator/Lobby Box shall be installed at or near the elevator located on the main floor.

**Main Entrance/Fire Department Direct Access Point**

- Located no further than 3 ft. from door knob side of the fire department direct access point
- Approximate height = 5 ft.
- “Fire Department” Alert Decal is to be mounted on the door of the fire department direct access point



Keys to be placed into the Knox box will be determined by the fire code official. Generally, a “set” of keys would be one master key to all entrance doors and interior rooms, or if no master key is available, then each set should include building entrance key(s), keys to special use rooms such as electrical/mechanical rooms, fire alarm control panel room, fire sprinkler riser room, elevator equipment room, rooms that may contain hazardous material storage, etc. If the building has an elevator, each set should also include an elevator key.

It is the responsibility of the property owner or occupant to provide and install the Knox Rapid Entry System under the direction of the fire code official.

For Knox Box questions, contact Fire Marshal Morrison at [amorrison@statesvillenc.net](mailto:amorrison@statesvillenc.net) or 704-832-3878.