

Knox-Box Information

A Knox-Box system is required on all new construction and existing construction undergoing significant remodel in the city of Santee. It is also highly recommended for existing businesses to install a Knox-Box system, to allow fire personnel quick and efficient access.



A Knox-Box, known officially as the [KNOX-BOX® Rapid Entry System](#) is a secure emergency access program developed for property owners and fire departments. When a fire breaks out or there is a medical emergency, Knox® products allow immediate entry into buildings and property without forced-entry damage or delay. Property owners store entrance keys, access cards and floor plans in high-security Knox-Boxes mounted near building entrances. Each Knox-Box purchased by a property owner is keyed to a single Master key controlled by the local fire department.

Why a Knox-Box Should Be Installed

1. Eliminates needless, costly forced-entry damage. The KNOX-BOX system pays for itself the first time firefighters respond to an alarm/fire emergency.
2. Ensures immediate building entry by fire personnel. The KNOX-BOX eliminates waiting for building keys or delays from forced entry.
3. Protects inventory, equipment and supplies from unnecessary water damage caused by delays in sprinkler shut-off.
4. Maintains building security. Since the building was not damaged during forcible entry, the building can simply be relocked after the alarm investigation.
5. Satisfies local fire codes and emergency access ordinances.
6. The KNOX-BOX system is attack resistant and UL listed to meet extreme climate and environment conditions.
7. Increases your peace of mind knowing that only fire personnel hold the key to the KNOX-BOX and that they can quickly respond to an emergency without your presence.



KNOX has a 20-year reputation of providing the highest security available. Hundreds of thousands of KNOX-BOXES have been installed. The KNOX system is the chosen rapid-entry solution by over 4,000 communities in the U.S. and Canada.

California Fire Code – Key Vaults

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.

The City of Santee requires that the Knox-Box be located at the entrance of the building and at the door to the fire riser room. The Knox-Box should be at a height of 72 inches off the ground. It should be the "hinged" type.

Please visit knoxbox.com to order your Knox-Box system.

After choosing the system that is right for you, please enter the zip code 92071 and it will pull up the Santee Fire Department.

After ordering and installing your Knox-Box System, call the Santee Fire Marshal at 619.258.4100, ext. 184, to schedule a visit for him to insert the keys needed for the system.