



OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT / **CAL FIRE**

CAL FIRE
SAN MATEO-SANTA CRUZ UNIT

6059 HIGHWAY 9
P.O. DRAWER F-2
FELTON, CA 95018
Phone (831) 335-6748
Fax # (831) 335-4053

SCOTT JALBERT
FIRE CHIEF

APPROVED VEHICULAR GATE LOCKING OPTIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard is to provide guidance to those persons choosing to provide for security of their property by installing an automatic vehicular gate system. Due to mutual and auto-aid agreements, it has been determined that there must be a method to allow emergency vehicles (fire, police, ambulance) access to the property without the gate hindering entry.

SCOPE

The California Fire Code provides for the installation of such devices in Chapter 5.

503.6 - Security gates. The installation of security gates across a fire apparatus access road shall be approved by the fire chief. Where security gates are installed, they shall have an approved means of emergency operation. The security gates and the emergency operation shall be maintained operational at all times.

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.

The California Code of Regulations Title 14 that pertains to State Regulated Areas (SRA) provides additional requirements for gates.

1273.11 (a) Gate entrances shall be at least two feet wider than the width of the traffic lane(s) serving the gate.

Therefore, when required by the fire chief, there shall be a means to allow unhindered access to a property in case of an emergency.

When an automatic vehicular gate is installed or replaced the installer shall contact the Santa Cruz County Fire Marshals Office to ascertain if a fire department access system

will be required. There may also be an occasion where the responding fire agency may discover an automatic vehicular gate that needs a fire department access system installed.

REQUIREMENTS – The Santa Cruz County Fire Marshals Office shall be consulted prior to installation of any fire department access systems. The option utilized must be approved by the Fire Chief prior to installation. Each fire department has, over the years, invested in a specific system that works best for their day to day operations. Because of this investment, they shall have the final say as to the specific option that is to be utilized within their respective jurisdictions.

Installation of DoorKing Inc. Lock Box 1400

- Access door has a hole for a standard padlock and accepts MasterLock Model 175 (resettable) ***MasterLock 175 shall be set by fire department for security reasons***
- Gate opens automatically when lock is removed and door is open
- Holds gate open until door is closed and lock is replaced
- Ample room inside for additional access control devices or keys
- Blank label inside door provides space for written instructions
- 14-gauge steel – painted bright red with words FIRE DEPT on face
- Built-in micro-switch for gate / door activation
- Can be surface or post mounted



SUMMARY – Automatic vehicular gate systems provide convenience and privacy. However, when access is restricted, there must be a means to allow emergency vehicles access to the property for the safety and welfare of the public and property.