Emergency Key Access – Knox Box Program

A. What is the Knox Box program?

The Knox Box program provides the Poway Fire Department with a quick and easy means to access a secured building or area during an emergency. It also minimizes potential costly repairs caused by forcible entry and allows the building to be re-secured quickly and easily.

B. What KnoxBox products are supported in Poway?

1. Electric Gate & Key Switches

Knox Gate & Key Switch (Lock w/ Dust Cover)  
Knox Gate & Key Switch (Single Lock on Plate)

2. Key Boxes for Businesses

KnoxBox 3200 - Surface Mount  
KnoxBox 3200 - Recessed Mount
C. How to Order a Knox Box or Gate Key Switch

**Before Gate Key Switch installation, contact the City of Poway Building Department at (858) 668-4644 to see if a permit is required.**

1. Go to www.knoxbox.com and click on ‘Choose your local fire department agency’
2. A box will pop up asking for your State and City. Please select California and type Poway. Click Search.
3. Select either Gate access for Police & Fire if you need a gate key switch or select Boxes if you are looking for Commercial Knox Boxes.
4. For Gate Key Switches - Click on Buy in the upper righthand corner. Click on Gate Key Switches and Padlocks. There will only be one product available. Click on View.
   For Commercial Knox Boxes – Click on Buy in the upper righthand corner. Select Commercial Knox Boxes.
5. Continue following the instructions for ordering. For ordering support call: 800-552-5669

Poway Municipal Codes:

PMC 15.24.050  503.6.1 Security Gates. All automatic gates across fire access roadways and driveways shall be equipped with approved, emergency, key-operated switches overriding all command functions and opening the gate(s).

PMC 15.24.050  506.1 Key Boxes. When access to or within a structure or an area is unduly difficult because of secured openings or where immediate access is necessary for life saving or firefighting purposes, the fire code official is authorized to require a key box to be installed in an accessible location. The key box shall be a type approved by the fire code official and shall contain keys to gain necessary access.

506.2.1 Emergency Key Access. All central station-monitored fire detection systems and fire sprinkler systems shall have an approved emergency key access box on site in an approved location. The owner or occupant shall provide and maintain current keys for the structure(s) for fire department placement in the box and shall notify the fire department in writing when the building is re-keyed.