

Diamond Springs -El Dorado

Fire Protection District

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GATES/ACCESS CONTROL DEVICES

This standard is designed for the installation of automatic gates/access control devices on fire apparatus access roadways. The intent is to provide adequate access by emergency vehicles so as to ensure public safety.

The Fire Chief is authorized to modify any of the provisions of this standard upon application in writing by the owner, a lessee, or a duly authorized representative where there are practical difficulties in the way of carrying out the provisions of this standard, provided that the spirit of the standard shall be complied with and public safety secured. The particulars of such modification and the decision of the Fire Chief shall be entered upon the records of the Department and a signed copy shall be furnished to the applicant.

A. Installation Requirement

1. Entrance roads (at the gate) shall have a minimum unobstructed width of twenty (20) feet total width. In all cases, unobstructed vertical clearance shall be not less than thirteen (13) feet six (6) inches.
2. All automatic gates shall be equipped with a "Knox" emergency access override system that consists of a low security key activated switch located in accordance with Fire Department requirements.
3. All automatic gates shall also be equipped with a linear receiver device and transmitters (approved by the Fire Department) to allow remote activation by emergency vehicles. Gates that serve 4 or more homes, or greater than 1 mile of roadway, shall require an Opticom receiver to open the gate.
4. Automatic gates shall be equipped with a mechanical release.
5. A loop system located on the inside portion of the access roadway shall permit vehicular traffic within the gated area the ability to open the gate and exit without any special knowledge, action or codes. The loop system shall also keep the gate open as long as vehicular traffic is passing through it.
6. All automatic gates shall be designed to automatically open and remain in fully opened position during power failures.

7. Gates creating a dead-end road in excess of one hundred fifty (150) feet in length shall be provided with approved provisions for the turning around of fire apparatus, with turnaround radius of not less than 56 foot outside and 40 foot inside.
8. The gradient for the fire apparatus access road shall not exceed the maximum approved by the Fire Department. The intent is to provide a level landing area a minimum of thirty (30) feet either side of the gate to allow emergency apparatus to be parked in a safe manner when it is necessary to exit the vehicle for manual gate activation.
9. All vehicle access control devices or systems must reach the fully open position within a total time not to exceed one (1) second for each one (1) foot of total width.
10. The receiving devices shall be installed so the signal from the transmitter will open the gate approximately twenty-five (25) feet from the gate location.
11. In order to ensure that the gate/access control devices are properly maintained, a copy of the yearly maintenance contract for the control device or system is required to be supplied to the Fire Protection District. This maintenance contract shall include annual preventative maintenance inspection and emergency repairs as required to maintain the gate and control devices in operative condition. If at any time this maintenance contract is voided for any reason, the access gates shall be locked in the open position and will remain locked open until such time as the maintenance contract is restored.
12. Prohibited Devices: All required vehicle access openings shall provide both ingress and egress. Direction limiting devices, such as fixed tire spikes, are prohibited. No device may be used which will delay ingress or egress of emergency responders, including but not limited to speed bumps. The total number of vehicle access control gates or systems, through which emergency equipment must pass to reach any address, shall not exceed one (1).

B. Plans

1. Plans for the installation of automatic gates on fire apparatus roadways shall be submitted to the Fire District for approval prior to installation.
2. The number of plans required to be submitted shall be per the direction of the Fire District.

C. Testing and Acceptance

1. Gates and access control equipment shall not be placed into service prior to being inspected and tested by this agency.

The Fire District reserves the right to make amendments to the aforementioned requirements, as deemed necessary and as conditions warrant. These conditions are time sensitive and are subject to change in the future, based on changes in technology and fire codes.

Thank you for helping keep our community fire safe.