Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

Community Risk Reduction Division **www.metrofire.ca.gov**

10545 Armstrong Ave., Suite 310· Mather, CA 95655· Phone (916) 859-4330 ·Fax (916) 859-3717

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT					
FIRE PREVENTION STANDARD					
STANDARD TITLE:	**Installation of Gates and Barriers Across Emergency Access**				
STANDARD NUMBER:	33	EFFECTIVE DATE:	6/26/25	REVISION DATE:	09/04/2026

SECTION 1 - SCOPE

This standard is for the design and installation of a new gate or barrier on a fire apparatus access roadway and is pursuant to the 2025 California Fire Code and the Local Ordinance. ***Approval of automated gates or barriers is subject to the owner accepting responsibility for any future programming requirements by the fire code official.***

Private driveways on minor roads serving one parcel are required to provide an exhibit to the Department of Transportation proving that the gate and gate equipment is installed outside the right-of-way. Knox equipment for fire department access is highly recommended.

Private driveways serving more than one parcel shall comply with this standard.

Electrified security fences are a separate permit and submittal - see Fire Prevention Standard 27 Electrified Security Fence. Prior to adding an electrified security fence, all existing gates will be reviewed for compliance with the code and standard in effect at the time of install.

Note: A proposed electrified security fence where a new barrier needs to be constructed, or the existing barrier requires legalization, can be reviewed together under a single submittal.

SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Standard – Installation of Gates and Barriers Across Emergency Access Standard, certain terms are defined as follows:

100% CONCURRANCE OF PROPERTY OWNERS – **will** consist of a signed, notarized copy of Emergency Access Gates and Barriers, Form A (attached), by each property owner served by the gate.

AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION – any agency having statutory authority to enforce federal, state, county, city, or district laws, ordinances or standards.

FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROAD – a road that provides fire apparatus access from a fire station to a facility, building or portion thereof. This is a general term inclusive of all other terms such as fire lane, public street, private street, parking lot lane, and access roadway.

FIRE CODE OFFICIAL – the fire chief or other designated authority charged with administration and enforcement of the code, or a duly authorized representative.

GATES AND BARRIERS – shall mean a gate, crossbar, door or other obstructive device which is utilized for the purpose of restricting, controlling or obstructing entry or exit by motor vehicles or pedestrians to or from a fire apparatus access road.

MAJOR STREET – shall mean a four-lane road or greater

MINOR STREET – shall mean a two-lane or three-lane road

PRIVATE STREET OR ROADWAY – shall mean any roadway (not dedicated as public right-of-way) that is owned and maintained by abutting property owners, or association of property owners that is utilized for the purpose of providing vehicular or pedestrian access.

PRIVATE DRIVEWAY – a private way for vehicular travel that provides access from an off-street parking area to a public or private road.
Note: a private driveway may also be considered a fire apparatus access road.

ULTIMATE EDGE OF PUBLIC STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY - the line furthest from the centerline of the street that has been designated by the County General Plan Transportation Plan and Circulation Element for existing or future right-of-way and per Sacramento County Improvement Standards

SECTION 3 - PERMIT

A permit shall be obtained from the Community Risk Reduction Division to design/install any secured access gate system across a fire apparatus access road. The gate permit may be revoked and the gate locked in the open position for any cause determined by the authority having jurisdiction to be in the interest of public safety.
Note: Any perimeter fence or gate that crosses a pedestrian pathway to a public street requires a fire department approval.

SECTION 4 - SUBMITTAL LOCATIONS

4.1 Unincorporated areas of the County. Approvals are required from the six (6) agencies having jurisdiction over the installation of gates & barriers. Acceptance by one department does not override the authority of other jurisdictions. It is the responsibility of the applicant to seek approval from all authorized agencies having jurisdiction over the installation of gates and barriers. The electronic submittal shall include explicit approvals from each of these departments:

4.1.1 1st Office: Department of Transportation, Sacramento County, 4111 Branch Center Rd., Sacramento, CA 95827; Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM M-F. Please send all Gate Submittals for review to trdplan@saccounty.gov. Please remember all emails must have GATE: [Street # Street Address] in the subject line or it may delay response.

4.1.2 2nd Office: Planning and Environmental Review, Sacramento County**,** 827 7th Street, Building Assistance Center, Sacramento, CA 95814. (916) 874-6141, Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM M-F. For information related to Fencing/Walls, refer to Office of Planning and Environmental Review (PER) for additional SPA and Zoning Requirements (www.planning.saccounty.gov) and to Building Permits and Inspections Division (BPI) for Building Code Requirements (www.building.saccounty.gov). Fences/Walls are not processed with the gate submittal.

4 4.1.3 3rd Office: Sacramento Area Sewer District, Permit Services Unit, 10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA 95827; (916) 876-6100, Hours 8:00AM – 4:30PM M-F

5 4.1.4 4th Office: Sheriff's Department, Sacramento County. Please email planreview@sacsheriff.com or call Sacramento County Sheriff's Department at (916) 874-1032 for an appointment to submit plans.

4.1.5 5th Office: The Community Risk Reduction Division of Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District - Sacramento Metro Fire District, 10545 Armstrong Avenue, Suite 310, Mather, CA 95655; (916) 859-4330. Plans are submitted digitally through Fire Prevention Mobile.

4.1.6 6th Office: The Sacramento County Building Permits and Inspection Division, 9800 Goethe Road, Building Permits and Inspection Division, Sacramento, CA 95827; Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM M-F
– A Building Permit is required for all electrical gate installations. For information related to Fencing/Walls, refer to Office of Planning and Environmental Review (PER) for additional SPA and Zoning Requirements (www.planning.saccounty.gov) and to Building Permits and Inspections Division (BPI) for Building Code Requirements (www.building.saccounty.gov). Fences/Walls are not processed with the gate submittal.

4.2 Incorporated Areas of the County (Cities) – Applications for gates within incorporated areas shall be submitted to the city locations listed below or as directed by their information services. Do not begin the process at the Sacramento County, Department of Transportation.

4.2.1 Citrus Heights. Plans for the City of Citrus Heights shall be submitted to the Sacramento Metro Fire District, 10545 Armstrong Avenue, Suite 310, Mather, CA 95655; (916) 859-4330.

4.2.2 Rancho Cordova. Plans for the City of Rancho Cordova shall be submitted to the Rancho Cordova City Hall, 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670; (916) 851-8937.

SECTION 5 - SUBMITTALS

Plans shall include the following:

5.1 Approved verification of 100% concurrence of property owners. The applicant shall provide, with the gate application, verification that all existing property owners served by gate installation agree to its installation and operation. Each property owner shall provide a signed copy of the agreement noted as Emergency Access Gates and Barriers, Form-A (attached). In addition, the applicant shall provide a copy of the amended “Road Maintenance Agreement” identifying the addition of the gates and operating systems. Where there is only one property owner, Emergency Access Gates and Barriers, Form-A must be signed by the property owner and the gate contractor. The completed form original shall be retained by the fire department.

5.2 A site plan of the property and a site detail of each gate location, drawn to engineers scale (1”=10’, 1”=20’, or 1”=40’):
a. The company name, address, phone number and contact person for each contractor that will work on any part of the gate system;
b. The state license number for each contractor working on the gate system identifying the license category applicable to each license (i.e. C-10, C-13, C61/D-28 or other).
c. Gates over 7 feet in height require the stamp of a structural engineer and a Sacramento County Building permit number.
d. The location of the entry to the property (e.g. on the east side of Fulton Ave, 620 feet north of the center of Marconi Avenue in the Sacramento area),
e. Assessor’s parcel number (located on the property owners tax bill);
f. Property lines;
g. Fire hydrants and/or fire department connections;
h. Location of the “ultimate edge of public street right-of-way (can be obtained from Sacramento County, Department of Transportation);
i. Location of the existing edge of pavement or gutter line;
j. Building footprints, including doors, walkways and fire control room doors; parking spaces and landscape affected;
k. Proposed fence, pedestrian gates, vehicle gates;
l. Existing vehicular access;

m. Location of Knox® key switch(s), Knox® box(s) and/or Click 2 Enter® device(s);
n. Location of free exit loop system, if applicable;
o. Physical address

SECTION 6 - MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Vehicle Gates – See Attached Layouts

6.1.1 Access

a. All gates governed by this standard shall be UL 325 and ASTM F2200 compliant.
b. Gates or fences shall not be installed within a required turning radius of a fire access roadway or fire apparatus turn-around.
c. Access for all gates shall be a minimum unobstructed 20’ wide and 13’, 6” inches high.
d. Swinging gates for single direction traffic shall swing in the direction of vehicle travel.
e. Swinging gates for bi-directional traffic shall swing into the property being entered.
f. Locations of gates shall be as approved by the fire department having jurisdiction and the Sacramento County, Department of Transportation, for the unincorporated area or the appropriate public works agency having jurisdiction for incorporated cities.
g. The distance from the public street to the face of a proposed vehicle gate or monument shall be measured from the “ultimate edge of the public street right-of-way”. “Ultimate edge of public street right-of-way”” information can be found by contacting Sacramento County, Department of Transportation, 4111 Branch Center Road, Sacramento, CA 95827, trdplan@saccounty.gov, for the unincorporated area or the public works agency having jurisdiction for incorporated cities.
h. Where there are two lanes of public street traffic traveling in the same direction, the approach to any vehicle gate shall be from the driving lane nearest the edge of the street by turning radii of at least 25’ inside and 50’ outside.
i. After passing through a gate, the nearest curb or beginning of a turning radius of any cross street shall be no less than 40 feet from the gate.

6.1.2 Operation of Gates

a. Construction of gates shall be of materials that allow manual operation by one person.
b. All gates shall be electrically operated for entry and exit by the following fire department methods:

1) Key override switch (Knox®), installed on the ingress and egress side of the gates. Exception: Knox® key switch on the egress side may be waived by installation of a "free exit" pavement loop.
2) Radio operated controller (Click2Enter® or other approved equipment).

c. Wiring for electrical gates shall be provided by AC current, underground installation. A miscellaneous electrical permit is required by the Sacramento County Building Department.

d. Electrically operated gates shall, during a power failure, open automatically and remain open until power is restored.

e. 3'0" x 6'8" pedestrian gates shall be installed per section 6.5 of this document.

6.1.2.1 Manual Vehicle Gates or Barriers

Manual vehicle gates or barriers may be approved on a case-by-case basis. Examples include: nighttime security of business property or access to wild lands.

a. They shall be constructed in a manner that reflects good construction practices acceptable to the fire department having jurisdiction.

b. They shall be accessible by means of an approved fire department padlock (Knox®) or by the installation of an approved key box (Knox ®). The padlock or box shall be installed on the public side of the gate.

c. Vehicle gates or barriers across fire apparatus access roadways shall be provided with an 18-gauge metal sign in the center of and on both sides of the gate that shall read, "FIRE LANE- NO PARKING". Letters shall be red on a white background and be a minimum of 3" high with a ½" stroke.

d. Gates for nighttime security only, shall be provided with (Knox®) padlock access.

e. Gates for 24 hour security, to be closed during business hours, are required to be electrically operated.

f. 3'0" x 6'8" pedestrian gates shall be installed per section 6.5 of this document.

6.1.3 Maintenance. Fire apparatus access gates and barriers shall be maintained including:

a. Mechanical operation, all parts

b. Batteries required for operation of the system during power failure;

c. Lubrication of moving parts and hinges per manufacturers specifications and;

d. Any subsequent attention required to maintain the list of frequencies for emergency operation of the gate in the controller.

6.1.4 Prohibitions

a. No gate shall be installed where access requires the use of a proximity reader, key pad, or card unless a "turn-out" is provided for its use.

b. Direction-limiting devices, such as fixed tire spikes, are prohibited.
c. No commercial property owner shall install manual gates where more than one gate must be opened in order to reach within 150 feet of the rear portion of any building.
d. A property with multiple automatic gates in a series shall be wired to open together with activation of one Knox® key switch or Click2Enter®.

6.2 Pedestrian Gates

All vehicle gates obstructing pedestrian access to a public way (street) shall have an approved pedestrian gate installed within 10 feet of the vehicle gate.

a. Pedestrian gates shall be handicap accessible and comply with exit door requirements of the California Building Code.
b. Pedestrian gates shall be operable from the inside of the locked area without the use of a key, to travel to the public way.
c. An approved key box (Knox®) shall be installed at least 48” above grade on the outside of the gate. It shall be provided with a key to open the pedestrian gate from the exterior.
d. No pedestrian gate shall be located in the median between two vehicle gates.

Exception**:** Private driveways serving one single-family residence are exempt from this requirement.

SECTION 7 – INSTALLATION APPROVAL

The fire department having jurisdiction shall inspect all gates for proper installation and operation prior to activation or use.

SECTION 8 – ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

a) Because of the delays caused by vehicle access control devices or systems, additional fire protection requirements may be applied based on other access limitations, such as narrow or winding streets.
b) Other than the obstruction and the reduced width controlled within this standard, no other requirement of the fire department having jurisdiction shall be adversely affected by the placement of any vehicle access control device or system in any required fire apparatus access road.
c) Fire department approval does not waive any requirement by other authorities having jurisdiction.
d) For the purposes of planning a private development, the following condition is applicable:
The proposed project shall either construct an entry that will accommodate access control gates pursuant to Sacramento County Code 17.04, Section 503.6, or dedicate a no-build easement for an entry that will accommodate access control gates in the future.

References:

A. Click2Enter® Manufacturers: Encon Electronics, 28310 Industrial Blvd., Suite 1, Hayward, CA 94545, (800) 782-5598
NOTE: Installation contractors can be found in the phone directory.

B. Knox®
Ordering is available online at https://www.knoxbox.com/

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FORM A - EMERGENCY ACCESS GATES AND BARRIERS

UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT

Each owner having property whose access is restricted by the proposed gate or barrier shall complete and sign before a Notary Public, a copy of this agreement. One completed copy per parcel shall be submitted with the proposed gate plans.

As owner of the parcel listed below that is served by the named private road, I understand and agree with the conditions of The County Emergency Access Gates and Barriers Standard to install and maintain controlled access to the private street/roadway shown on the attached plans. I understand that FAILURE TO COMPLY with any condition herein shall constitute a violation of the Sacramento County Code and is grounds for immediate revocation of this permit to have a security gate or barrier. I also understand that once the gate system is approved and activated, written approval of the fire department and sheriff's office must be obtained to make system changes; except by authorized maintenance personnel. I understand that gates that are not operating as approved by the fire department shall be locked in the open position until repairs are completed and proper operation is verified by a fire department officer.

Property Owner: _____ Date: _____
Signature Printed

Parcel Number: _____

Final Inspection

Approval By: _____ Date: _____
Signature Printed

Agency: _____

(A signed fire department inspection card may verify final approval.)

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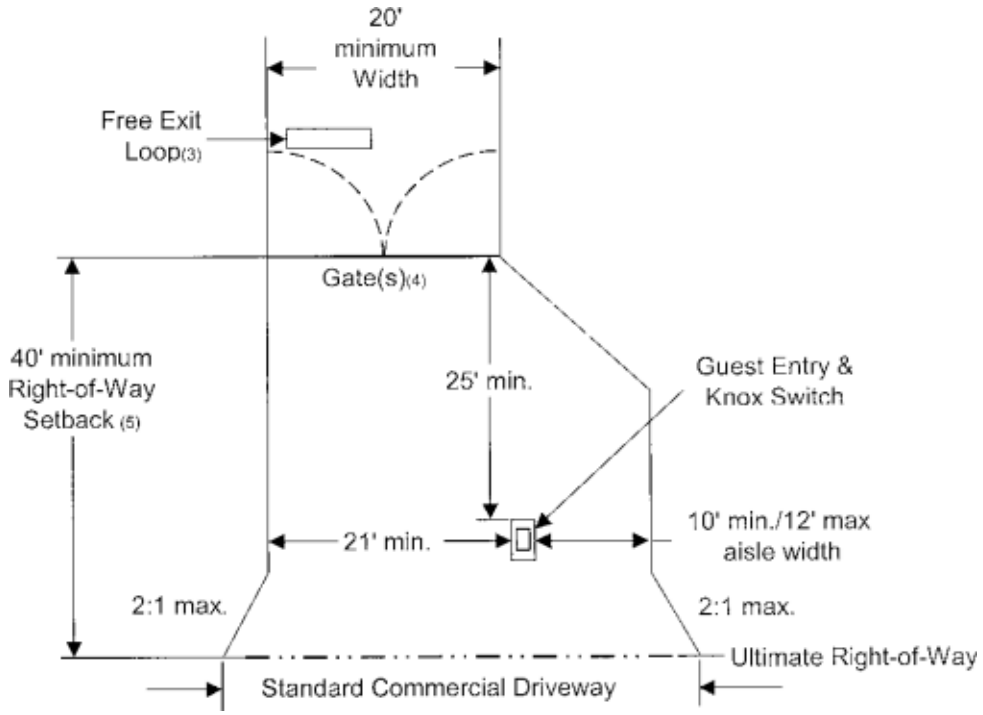
Sample Entry Gate Layout



PUBLIC OR PRIVATE STREET

NOTES:

1. The dimensional criteria shown on this layout meets the requirements of the Sacramento County Sheriff, the Sacramento County Department of Transportation and the Fire Departments of Sacramento County. Additional requirements are included in the standard above. Alternate designs that adhere to the Code and the criteria above may be approved pending review by the above agencies.

2. A Free Exit Loop may be approved in lieu of a Knox® key switch on the egress side of the gate.

3. A 36-inch wide pedestrian gate shall be provided within 10-feet of the vehicle gate.

4. The gate layout shall consist of one 20-foot min. opening or two separate openings that create a cumulative 20-foot min. opening.

5. An optional gate monument may be approved. However, depending on the design a wider turnaround area may be required. If the monument protrudes in front of the gates, the right-of-way setback shall be measured from the monument instead of the gates.

6. The actual gate setback requirement will be based on a queuing analysis performed by the Department of Transportation.