



Fire Marshal's Office
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Garland, TX 75040
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Access Control

Revised 11/02/2018

Re: Emergency Access of Limited Access Gates at Apartments and Gated Communities

This policy outlines the provisions established by the Fire Marshal's office for maintaining limited access control gates across dedicated or designated as emergency access easements (fire lanes). This policy applies to all multifamily occupancies (apartments), private gated communities, or any other occupancy deemed as high risk by the Fire Marshal's office.

General Requirements:

1. All limited access drives from public streets shall be designated to accommodate Fire Department emergency service vehicles (Fire-Medical). All limited access drives will be designated as either a primary or secondary emergency access way. The Fire Marshal will make all determinations as to primary and secondary designations.
2. All primary emergency access gates designated by the Fire Marshal shall be equipped with the **Opticom® Gate Opening System**. Individual property owners must maintain system in good working condition at all times. **This system only addresses the concerns of the Fire Department. Police access must be addressed by the Police Department**
3. In the event of power failure, the gate shall automatically be transferred to a fail-safe mode allowing the gate to be pushed open without the use of special knowledge or equipment. Gates which are not in proper operating condition shall be chained and locked in an open position.
4. All secondary emergency access points shall incorporate a manual disconnect to allow manual opening of the gate by emergency responders. This system must be a **Knox® Pad Lock** or other device approved by the Fire Marshal.
5. Primary access ways with electric gates for occupancies not designated by the Fire Marshal as high risk shall be equipped with a **Knox® Key Switch** on or near the control pad for the gate.

For items not listed refer to 2015 IFC, local amendments, and any material deemed applicable by the Fire Marshal.

<http://www.garlandtx.gov/312/Fire-Prevention>

This list is provided as an aid for submittals only, and is not intended to cover every code requirement.