Fire Chiefs Association of Santa Cruz County

FIRE PREVENTION OFFICERS SECTION

| FIRE PREVENTION STANDARDS | DATE: **01/22/15** | NUMBER: **FP0-002** |
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| | APPROVED: | REVISED: |
| | TITLE: **LOCKING HYDRANT OR FDC CAP** | |

# APPROVED HYDRANT AND FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION (FDC) LOCKING OPTIONS

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard is to provide guidance to those persons choosing to provide security for their property by installing a locking hydrant or FDC cap system. Due to mutual and auto-aid agreements, it has been determined that there must be a standardized method to allow emergency responders access to fire protection systems without hindering their access. This standard adopts and implements the KNOX® FDC Protection Program.

The KNOX® FDC Protection Program provides protection for both the intake and discharge sides of water based fire protection systems and may be utilized by any or all of the fire agencies of Santa Cruz County. In recent years, there has been an increase in the theft and unauthorized use of water from water systems which has placed numerous properties and lives in jeopardy. An additional benefit of this program will be preventing the theft of brass fittings including, fire department connections and fire hydrant caps.

## SCOPE

The Santa Cruz County Fire Chiefs' Association has adopted the use of the KNOX® FDC Protection Program as the only acceptable locking system to be used county-wide.

The installation and use of these devices is authorized by §912.3.1 of the California Fire Code when the responding fire department carries the appropriate key wrench for removal. The use of these locking devices must be carefully implemented and agencies adopting the use of the system shall insure that all agency apparatus as well as planned 2nd & 3rd alarm agencies are equipped with a sufficient number of keys on each apparatus.

It is the intent to use the KNOX® FDC Protection Program to lock and protect fire hydrants, fire sprinkler system FDCs, standpipe FDCs and valve outlets.

## APPLICABLE ENABLING CODES

**California Penal Code §148.4 Tampering with fire protection equipment.**
(a) Any person who does any of the following is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail, not exceeding one year, or by a fine, not exceeding one thousand dollars ($1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment:
(1) Willfully and maliciously tampers with, molests, injures, or breaks any fire protection equipment, fire protection installation, fire alarm apparatus, wire, or signal.

**California Fire Code §901.8 Removal of or tampering with equipment.** It shall be unlawful for any person to remove, tamper with or otherwise disturb any fire hydrant, fire detection and alarm system, fire suppression system, or other fire appliance required by this code except for the purpose of extinguishing fire, training purposes, recharging or making necessary repairs, or when approved by the fire code official.

**California Fire Code §912.1 Installation.** Fire department connections shall be installed in accordance with the NFPA standard applicable to the system design and shall comply with Sections 912.2 through 912.6.

**California Fire Code §912.3 Access.** Immediate access to fire department connections shall be maintained at all times and without obstruction by fences, bushes, trees, walls or any other fixed or moveable object. Access to fire department connections shall be approved by the fire chief.

**Exceptions:**

1. Fences, where provided with an access gate equipped with a sign complying with the legend requirements of Section 912.4 and a means of emergency operation. The gate and the means of emergency operation shall be approved by the fire chief and maintained operational at all times.
2. When acceptable to the fire enforcing agency, fire department connections for Group I-3 detention facilities may be located inside all security walls or fences on the property.

**California Fire Code §912.3.1 Locking fire department connection caps.** The fire code official is authorized to require locking caps on fire department connections for water-based fire protection systems where the responding fire department carries appropriate key wrenches for removal.

## REQUIREMENTS

When required by the fire code official, the property owner shall purchase the item(s) necessary to protect the on-site fire protection equipment. Prior to purchase, the property owner shall meet with the fire code official to determine what device(s) will be required.

The FDC Protection Program devices cover a variety of applications from 1-1/2" to 5" and come in 3 styles, FDC Plugs, Secure Caps and StorzGuard. If an agency wishes to use Storz Caps and StorzGuard on a fire hydrant, insure that assisting agencies have the same capabilities or the appropriate adapters to use the Storz to hydrant or Storz to FDC adapters.

Some agencies allow on line ordering while others require that a department authorization form be obtained from the fire department. Check with the fire code official about ordering requirements.

Once the owner receives the devices, the fire code official or other fire department representative shall install the FDC or hydrant device(s) by locking the devices into or onto the equipment to be protected by use of the KNOX Keywrench.

The KNOX Keywrench shall be treated as all other KNOX Rapid Entry System keys.

## APPROVED PRODUCTS

- Fire Hydrant Installations:
  - 2 ½" National Hose thread
    - KNOX SecureCap® Part #4043
  - 4 ½" National Hose Thread Steamer Connection
    - 4" StorzGuard® cap Part #5001
    - 5" StorzGuard® cap Part #5002
  - StorzGuard® Kits with caps may be ordered based on configuration required

- Fire Department Connection Installations:
  - 2 ½" Male Plug with Swivel-Guard® Part #3041
  - 2 ½" Male Plug Part #3043
  - 1 ½" Male Plug Part #3050

## SUMMARY

Locking fire hydrant and FDC cap systems provide security and convenience. However, when access is restricted, there must be a means to allow emergency responders access to the suppression systems for the safety and welfare of the public and property.