

NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Policy and Procedure Manual

FIRE PREVENTION
PLANS AND PERMITS

SECTION 340.05
5/10/05
PAGE 1 OF 3

Electric Gates

PURPOSE: To set guidelines for the installation of all automatic gates across fire access roadways.

POLICY:

- I. All automatic access gates across fire access roadways shall be equipped with an approved emergency agency key switch ([Knox Key](#)) which overrides all commands and opens the gate.
- II. All gates providing access to more than four residences shall also be equipped with approved emergency vehicle strobe light detectors capable of detecting emergency vehicle pulsing strobe lights from any direction of vehicle approach, overriding all commands and opening the gate. Such controls shall be installed to the satisfaction of the North County Fire Protection District.
- III. Existing gates, when replaced or modified, or with any increase in number of residential units served, shall be brought into compliance with this requirement before modifications are approved, or structures are occupied.
- IV. The detector and key switch requirements also apply to any gate on fire access roadways related to the following occupancies:
 - A. Assembly
 - B. Educational
 - C. Hazardous
 - D. Institutional
 - E. Residential (R-1)

PROCEDURE

- I. **PLAN REVIEW.** All automatic gate installations requiring a building permit must undergo a fire department plan review and approval prior to initiating the work. Plan submittal shall include the following:
 - A. Roadway width
 - B. Roadway setbacks in immediate vicinity (50' either side of gate)
 - C. Curb detail
 - D. Planters, islands, etc. gate location
 - E. Gate swing (pathway)
 - F. Support posts
 - G. Entry panel location
 - H. Motor/control location
 - I. Strobe detector location's
 - J. Location of NO PARKING FIRE LANE SIGNS
 - K. Entry panel detail including key location

NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Policy and Procedure Manual

FIRE PREVENTION
PLANS AND PERMITS

SECTION 340.05
5/10/05
PAGE 2 OF 3

Electric Gates

- L. Gate panel detail
- M. Submittal sheets
- N. Site address
- O. Owner
- P. Assessors parcel number
- Q. Contractor
- R. Contact address
- S. Contractor license number
- T. Cut sheets for products

II. CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

- A. Gate width requirements:
 - 1. Roadways: Entry and exit gates shall have a clear opening of not less than twenty (24') feet of unobstructed clearance for a dual traffic direction gate, and not less than twelve (12') feet for each side of divided roadway.
 - 2. Driveways: Gates installed on driveways to individual residences shall have a clear opening of not less than sixteen (16') feet.
- B. Turn-Arounds: Where access roadways (roads serving more than two parcels) intersect public roads, install a turnaround in accordance with San Diego Co. Dept. of Public Works design standard [DS 17](#), [DS 18](#), or [DS 19](#).
- C. Exit loop Detectors: Exit gates shall activate (open) by vehicle detector loops in the roadway and shall be independent of any other device.
- D. Key Switch Function and Location: An approved key operated switch (Knox Key) shall be installed at the entry control panel for fire department, emergency medical and law enforcement use. Panel location must be approved by the fire department.
- E. Function During Power Failure: Gates shall automatically open using battery power in case of power failure, or other means approved by the fire department of disconnecting locks and opening the gate shall be provided, to expedite entry.
- F. Gates Secured Open Until Approved: All of the above hardware shall be installed and be fully functional, and be accepted by the North County Fire Protection District prior to the gate being left in the closed position.

IV. PLAN APPROVAL.

- A. Timeframe for Completion. Plans are to be thoroughly reviewed in accordance with the above process and therefore, are generally not checked "over the counter." Plans are checked on a first come, first served basis. The timeframe for completion will vary based upon the complexity of the project and current workload among Bureau personnel. Plans for electric gates are generally checked in 2-5 days.
- B. Site Inspection. If plan requirements are questionable, unfamiliar, or not clearly

**NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Policy and Procedure Manual**

FIRE PREVENTION
PLANS AND PERMITS

SECTION 340.05
5/10/05
PAGE 3 OF 3

Electric Gates

- identified, conduct a site inspection to verify plan conditions.
- C. Fire Dept. Conditions. Where additional conditions are required by the Fire Dept., they shall be noted in red ink or red stamp on all copies of submitted plans (up to three).
 - D. Compliance with New Codes. Plans based upon an expired building permit and old unapproved plans must comply with current code requirements.
- V. **PLAN DENIAL**. When plan conditions do not substantially meet Fire Dept. requirements, return the plans along with a [Plan Check Deficiencies](#) form to the submitter. The submitter will have three options:
- A. Discontinue the plan submittal/review process.
 - B. Resubmit the plans which address stipulated Fire Dept. conditions.
 - C. Appeal the decision. (refer to the [Plan Review Appeal](#) policy).
- VI. **FIELD INSPECTIONS**. Fire Prevention personnel may conduct an inspection of the subject property at any time. Contractors will contact the Bureau to schedule inspections. Contractors must provide at least 24 hours prior notice when scheduling inspections. A final inspection is conducted in order to verify compliance with the building plans and all specified Fire Dept. conditions