

CITY OF HASLET

ORDINANCE NO. 024-2016

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HASLET, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 3 “BUILDING REGULATIONS” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE 3.13 “EMERGENCY ACCESS KEY BOXES”; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Haslet, Texas is a Type A general-law municipality located in Tarrant and Denton Counties, Texas, created in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 6 of the Local Government Code and operating pursuant to the enabling legislation of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a fire or other emergency, an emergency access key box system, commonly referred to as a “Knox Box”, allows firefighters immediate entry into buildings and property without forced entry damage or delay; and

WHEREAS, faster access by the fire department can result in more rapid control of the emergency situation, and can result in faster fire control or more rapid shut-off of a sprinkler system, resulting in less water damage; and

WHEREAS, emergency access padlocks and key switches also allow the fire department access through automatic gates, locked fences, gated communities, and construction sites; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that requiring such emergency access key boxes for all commercial buildings and multi-family residential structures is necessary to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens and the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HASLET, TEXAS:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 3 “Building Regulations” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Haslet, Texas be and is hereby amended to add a new Article 3.13 “Emergency Access Key Boxes” to read as follows:

“ARTICLE 3.13 EMERGENCY ACCESS KEY BOXES

Sec. 3.13.001 Definitions

Fire Official. The Haslet Fire Chief or his designee.

Responsible Party. The person or persons charged with the responsibility for the occupancy of a building or the owner of a business which is the occupant of such building.

Key Box. A UL Listed box, size and style, approved by the Fire Official that meets the requirements and uses the same security key code adopted by the Haslet Fire Department.

Key Switch. A switch that a person with a key (but no one else) to override an electronic system. A key switch can also control the emergency power shutoff system allowing for access by the fire department.

Security Padlock. A padlock approved by the Fire Official that utilizes the approved key code utilized by the Haslet Fire Department.

Security Cap. A Fire Department Connection (FDC) Plug and Cap approved by the Fire Official.

Sec. 3.13.002 Application of ordinance

(a) **Key Box Required for New Commercial Buildings.**

All new commercial buildings constructed after the effective date of this Ordinance shall have installed a Key Box(s), of a UL type and size approved by the Fire Official, in a location(s) specified by the Fire Official prior to the issuance of the permit of occupancy.

(b) **Key Box Required for Existing Commercial Buildings.**

All existing commercial buildings shall have installed a Key Box, in a location specified by the Fire Official within six (6) months of the effective date of this Ordinance.

(c) **Key Box Required for Multi-Family Residential Structures.**

All multi-family residential structures that have restricted access through locked doors and have a common corridor for access to the living units shall have installed a Key Box, in a location specified by the Fire Official within six (6) months of the effective date of this Ordinance.

(d) **Key Box Contents.**

All Key Boxes shall contain labeled keys, easily identified in the field to provide access into the property and/or building, and to any locked areas within the said building as the Fire Official may direct. Key boxes shall also contain contact information for the Responsible Party of the building or occupied space.

(e) Automatic Gates.

When a property is accessed through an electrical gate or cross arm that impedes ingress through required Fire Lanes, it shall be equipped with a Key Switch to be installed at a location approved by the Fire Official.

A secondary means of ingress is required for the event of power outage.

(f) Security Padlock

When required by the Fire Official, a property that is protected by a locked fence or gate and where immediate access to the property may be necessary for life saving and firefighting purposes, shall be equipped with a Security Padlock to be installed at a location approved by the Fire Official. It shall then be the responsibility of the Responsible Party to see that the fence or gate is secured properly so that the Security Padlock is accessible.

(g) Construction Sites

When required by the Fire Official, a construction site that is to be secured by a locked fence or gate, shall be subject to the same requirements as properties protected by Security Padlocks during the duration of construction or until the fence or gate is removed.

(h) Security of Fire Department Connections

When a building is protected by an automatic sprinkler and/or standpipe system and the fire department connection is subject to vandalism, the Fire Official may require that a Security Cap be installed.

(i) One and Two Family Dwellings

The requirements of this Ordinance are not applicable to one and two family dwellings. However, the occupants of one and two family dwellings are encouraged to participate voluntarily.”

SECTION 2.

This Ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of ordinances of the City of Haslet, Texas, as amended, except where the provisions of this ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such ordinances, in which event the conflicting provisions of such ordinances are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3.

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid

judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining, phrase, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or sections of this Ordinance since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without incorporation in this Ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

SECTION 4.

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be fined not more than \$2000.00 for all violations involving zoning, fire safety, or public health and sanitation, including dumping or refuse, and shall be fined \$500.00 for all other violations of this ordinance. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

SECTION 5.

The City Secretary of the City of Haslet is directed to publish the caption, penalty clause, and effective date of this Ordinance in the official newspaper of the City of Haslet, Texas, as authorized by Section 52.011 of the Texas Local Government Code.

SECTION 6.

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law, and it is so ordained.

PASSED AND APPROVED 19TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.



Bob Golden
BOB GOLDEN, MAYOR

Dianna Buchanan
DIANNA BUCHANAN, CITY SECRETARY

KNOX-BOX® Rapid Entry System



3200 Series KNOX-BOX®



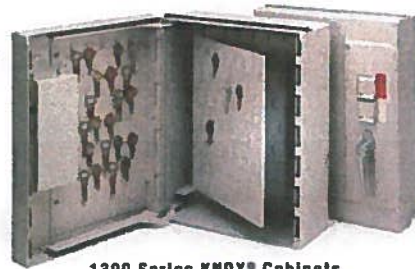
1400 Series KNOX® Elevator Box



KNOX® Key Switches



4100 Series KNOX-VAULT®



1300 Series KNOX® Cabinets



KNOX® Padlocks



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Why is this symbol important?

The KNOX-BOX Rapid Entry System is the only system that holds a High Security rating from Underwriters Laboratories (UL). All Knox-brand key storage devices are UL 1037 Listed against physical attack.

