

Fire Department Connections: Maintain System Integrity with Knox® Locking Caps

By Mark Conroy

Buildings protected with fire sprinkler systems and standpipes have connections for the fire department to connect their hoses. In addition, fire hydrants are commonly used by fire departments to draw water from a municipal water supply. These connections are required to be protected with caps to keep out trash and debris which would impede the fire department use. With Knox Locking Caps, only the fire department has access, ensuring that the connections are clear and ready for use.

These connections can be either threaded or have a “Storz” quick connection. Storz connections have interlocking hooks and flanges instead of threads and are bigger for large volumes of water. Because the Storz locking caps can hold water pressure, they can be installed on hydrants. *All of these connections are required by NFPA to have caps.*

Hose connections for fire departments require caps (NFPA 13, 2019, 16.12.3.2). Where this rule is not being enforced, there will be open-ended pipes, (a code violation). But many cities have adopted the Knox system, which allows caps to be locked in place. Firefighters have the Knox Keywrench, so only the fire department has access. City administrators, fire departments, and building owners endorse this system.

Pre-Approved Knox Cities

To improve safety, fire departments in many cities and towns allow the installation of the Knox Locking Caps, which are pre-approved for use in over 550 cities and towns in the United States. [Here*](#) is a link to the list of Approved Cities.

Requesting Fire Department Approval for Knox Locking Caps

If you service buildings in a city or town where Knox caps are not pre-approved for installation, provide the name and contact information of your local fire department to your Brooks account manager. They will coordinate with a Knox representative who will work with your local fire department on getting Knox caps approved.

To install a Knox Locking Cap, all you will need is the Knox Keywrench installation tool, which is the same tool that the fire department has to remove the cap. [Watch**](#) our FireTech talk video on FDC locking caps.



Wherever Knox Locking Caps are approved and installed, safety of occupants, firefighters, and property is enhanced. Installing a new Knox Locking Cap takes only minutes, as they are designed to fit existing connections. Your customers will appreciate the improvement in safety, as your fire department can easily remove them and have immediate access to all building hose connections upon arrival.

* https://www.brooksequipment.com/uploadedFiles/Brooks_Equipment/Content/Knox/Knox_Express_Cities.pdf

** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxUjASfaEtg>

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