



**EL DORADO COUNTY  
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

P.O. Box 807/4040 Carson Road / Camino, CA 95709  
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Standard for Gates on Fire Apparatus Access Roadways

Scope

This standard is designed to provide a guideline for the installation of gates on fire apparatus access roadways. The intent is to provide adequate access by emergency vehicles so as to ensure public safety.

The Fire Chief is authorized to modify any of the provisions of this standard upon application in writing by the owner, a lessee or a duly authorized representative where there are practical difficulties in the way of carrying out the provision of this standard, provided that the spirit of the standard shall be complied with and public safety secured. The particulars of such modification and the decision of the Fire Chief shall be entered upon the records of the department and a signed copy shall be furnished to the applicant.

Gates

1. Entrance roads (at the gate) shall have a minimum unobstructed width of 15 feet each lane if divided or 20 feet total width if not divided. In all cases unobstructed vertical clearance shall be not less than 13 feet six 6 inches.
2. Residential Driveway gates have a minimum unobstructed width of 12 feet and vertical clearance of 13 feet 6 inches.
3. Entrance and exit gates shall be equipped with an emergency access lock system (El Dorado County low priority "KNOX" system). This shall consist of a padlock in series on manual gates or a key switch on automatic gates.
4. Automatic gates shall also be equipped with a receiver (approved by the Fire Department) to allow remote activation by emergency vehicles.
5. Automatic gates shall be equipped with a mechanical release.
6. A loop system shall be provided to keep the gate open as long as traffic is passing through the gate.
7. Automatic gates shall be designed so as to remain in the unlocked position during a power failure.

8. Gates creating a dead-end road in excess of one hundred fifty (150) feet in length shall be provided with approved provisions for the turning around of fire apparatus.
9. The gradient for the fire apparatus access road shall not exceed the maximum approved by the Fire Department, (see **Driveway Gradient Regulations**, under **Permits and Info**). The intent is to provide a level landing area on either side of the gate to allow emergency apparatus to be parked in a safe manner when it is necessary to exit the vehicle for manual gate activation.
10. Application for key switches and padlocks of the “Knox” security system can be made through the Fire District main office.