

Helping the Fire Department Get into the Church Using the Knox-Box System

By Rev. Charles Sinclair

A malfunctioning coffee pot, an unattended candle, lighting, electrical problems, or a host of other things can cause fires in their facilities.

Do you have a smoke detector in your church facility connected to a fire alarm system?

Smoke detectors are a great fire detection device, but they can get clogged with dust or sometimes, send a false alarm. They should be replaced every 10 years and cleaned regularly.



We want our fire department to catch these events before we lose our buildings.

Are the doors ever locked? Could an emergency arise when no one is at church, and the fire department needs to investigate before anyone can arrive with a key?

The fire department will and can break a door, if there is probable cause that there may be fire in the church facilities. If flames are coming out of the windows, this is a no brainer. But if there is a small kitchen fire or a false alarm, and a door needed to be broken to give them access inside, this can cost the church thousands of dollars.

The answer is a **Knox-Box System** costing a couple of hundred to install.

Knox Box System is a high-security key box system, designed to give firefighters and emergency services immediate access to locked buildings, elevators, and other secured areas.

How is a Knox-Box System installed?

Contact your local fire department before installing a box. Some companies have special recommendations. It is highly recommended that Knox-Boxes are mounted **no higher than 5 feet** from the ground and **near the main entrance**. After installation is completed, contact the Fire Prevention Bureau to conduct an inspection of the installation, and lock building keys inside the box. The generous interior capacity allows you to store everything emergency personnel may require - keys, floor plans, electronic entry cards, emergency contact names and numbers, and more - in complete security until needed. The box is ready to provide immediate access to emergency personnel 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Only the fire department's master key can open this box.

How secure is a Knox-Box System?

Security has always been a Knox strong point. Designed for maximum protection, each virtually indestructible box features a special high-security Medeco lock and key. This Medeco restricted locking system guards against unauthorized key duplication. Keys aren't even available to locksmiths or lock distributors - only The Knox Company can supply these keys! The system offers maximum security at every step. Each city has an exclusive key code. All Knox-Box stations in that area are keyed alike - and only the Fire Department has master keys.