



# City of Gastonia Fire Department

## Life Safety Division



*Dedicated to Saving  
Lives & Property through  
Code Enforcement & Education*

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The Gastonia Fire Department has run into a problem over the past few years, in that we amassed a large number of keys to the buildings within our city. It has caused our department to reconsider how we handle keys from businesses.

It is our goal to give the best and most up to date service to the people in our city. Trying to maintain a set of keys for each of our 10 trucks and 1 District Chief car is a major undertaking. The Gastonia Fire Department has decided to go with the Knox Rapid Entry Key Box System. This system allows one key on each department apparatus, and after-hours entry of your property in the event of an emergency or false alarm...WITH NO DAMAGE TO YOUR BUILDING!

The following paragraph is from the North Carolina State Building Code:

506.1

Where access to or within a structure or an area is restricted because of secured openings or where immediate access is necessary for life-saving or fire-fighting purposes, the code official is authorized to require a key box to be installed in an accessible location. The key box shall be of an approved type and shall contain keys to gain access as required by the code official.

Those businesses wishing the Gastonia Fire Department to have keys for access will be required to install the Knox Box system. The fire official will determine the locations of the box.

Thank you for your time regarding this matter. Any questions pertaining to this matter, or any other matter which the department may be of service, please contact the Gastonia Fire Department at (704) 866-6807.