

Fire & Life Safety Bureau

"Excellence through Engineering, Education and Enforcement"



Automatic Vehicle Access Control Gate:

In accordance with West Manatee Fire & Rescue District Ordinance 2018-01, Section 11.2, below are listed the minimum required operating features for all automatic gate systems installed within West Manatee Fire & Rescue District.

1. Plans for each automatic gate system shall be submitted to the Bureau for review and approval prior to the initiation of any construction.
2. When in the fully open position, gates shall allow not less than fifteen (15) feet horizontal clear space, including the roadway surface, as measured from inside curb to inside curb. A vertical clear space of not less than thirteen (13) feet six (6) inches shall also be required.
3. Each system shall have as a minimum for operation:
 - a. Remote access through the use of electronic openers. These openers shall be set to the current frequency and code for use by fire districts as well as the Manatee County Department of Public Safety. This frequency and code shall be separate from and in addition to any frequency and code intended for use by the occupants. The remote-control unit shall cause the gate to begin opening operations when activated no less than ten (10) feet from the outer most edge of the gate.
 - b. In the event of power outages, a battery back-up system shall cause the gate(s) to be open on the entry side of the complex to allow emergency access (see #/2 above). The gate(s) shall remain in the fully open position until power is restored.
4. The following items are not required but are encouraged to be installed:
 - a. Keyed gate activation, if installed, the key activation switch shall be located for easy accessibility from the exterior of the gate. The key activation device shall be a Knox Rapid Access type device and shall be keyed the same as the Knox Box key used within the fire district in which the gate is installed.
 - b. A siren operated (SOS) sensor which will cause the gates to be opened through the use of a siren. If installed, the sensor shall activate the gate opening devices through the use of the "yelp" siren.
5. If the gate is to be used for emergency access only, signage shall be installed on both the interior and exterior of the gate indicating the gate is to be used for emergency access only and prohibiting parking.
6. In the event the gate becomes non-operational, the gates(s) shall be secured in the fully open position until such time as the minimum requirements as outlined above have been restored to a fully operational condition.
7. Upon initial acceptance of the automatic gate(s), fire department personnel shall mark the gates with reflective tape. These markings shall be maintained by the property owner or management.
8. Where any vehicle access gate is installed, which is used expressly for emergency access, the gate shall be set back from the roadway a distance sufficient to allow emergency vehicles using said gate to be fully off the roadway while opening a manual gate or allowing an automatic gate to open.
9. No automatic vehicle access gate or cross bar used for entry control shall be placed in service until such time as operating features have been inspected, tested, and approved.