

Irvine Police Department
Emergency Access
Irvine Uniform Security Code
January 2011

SECTION 5-9-519. Emergency Access

- A. Private roads and parking areas or parking facilities when controlled by unmanned automated parking gates shall provide for police emergency access utilizing an approved radio controlled entry system and approved key switch device to be installed and designed as follows:
1. The key switch control shall be installed at a height of 42 inches from finished driveway grade and a minimum of 15 feet from the entry/exit gate, and be located on the driver's side of the road or driveway. The key switch is to be accessible in such a manner as to not require a person to exit their vehicle to reach it; nor to require any back-up movements in order to enter/exit the gate. The key switch may be installed within a visitor telephone/intercom call box if meeting the above criteria. The control housing shall consist of heavy gauge metal, and be vandal and weather resistant and be mounted on a substantial structure such as a steel post, concrete, or masonry pedestal.
 2. Key switches shall be secured to the control housing or telephone/intercom call box utilizing tamper resistant screws.
 3. Except for an open surface parking lot with less than 100 parking spaces, a radio controlled entry system shall be installed per City specifications.
 4. Vehicle gates shall be designed to open in a power failure.
- B. All lockable pedestrian gates or doors to common area walkways and recreation areas/buildings of residential multi-family complexes or tract of homes shall provide for police emergency access utilizing an approved radio controlled entry system and approved key switch device or approved key vault which shall be installed as follows:

1. Pedestrian gates/doors using an electrically automated type lock shall be provided with an approved radio controlled entry system and a key switch within a telephone/intercom console, or installed adjacent to the door inside a wall/door frame, or in a control housing as described in section (A)(1) above or in a method approved by the enforcing authority. Key switches shall be secured utilizing tamper resistant screws. The radio controlled receiver shall be visible in order to determine, when activated, if the signal was received by illuminating a light. More than one gate or door, which is in close proximity to another may be operated by the radio controlled entry system if approved by the police department.
 2. Pedestrian gates or doors utilizing mechanical locks shall be provided with a key vault adjacent to each gate or door, securely attaching it to a fence or wall, mounted 4 feet above finished grade and within 2 feet of the locking device.
 3. Pedestrian gates in perimeter community walls/fencing shall utilize a key switch if using an electronically automated type lock, or if a mechanical lock is used, a key vault, mounted 4 feet above finished grade and within 2 of the locking device.
 4. Pool gates shall only utilize a key vault, mounted 4 feet above finished grade and within 2 feet of the locking device.
 5. Elevators with access control systems shall be provided with a key switch adjacent to the access control reader utilizing tamper resistant screws.
- C. Nonresidential multi-tenant buildings with a common area entrance and interior walkway shall provide police emergency access utilizing an approved radio controlled entry system and approved key switch device or approved key vault which shall be installed as follows:
1. All common area doors using an electrically automated type lock shall be provided with a key switch device within the building's exterior telephone/intercom call box or in a control housing as described in section A. 1 above, or in a method approved by the enforcing authority and located within close proximity and in a visible area near the door mounted 4 feet above finished grade. Key switches shall be secured utilizing tamper resistant screws.

2. Exterior entry common area doors utilizing mechanical door locks shall be provided with a key vault within close proximity and in a visible area near the door mounted 4 feet above finished grade.
 3. Elevators with access control systems shall install a key switch adjacent to the access control reader utilizing tamper resistant screws.
- D. Emergency vehicle access gates shall be designed so as to provide access to the padlock from either side of the gate. A key vault shall be installed on each side of the gate. Owners padlock shall be used to secure the gate.
 - E. All key switches, key vaults, and padlocks shall be sub-mastered to an Orange County Fire Authority key for access by the police department. The radio controlled entry system shall be programmed to frequencies approved by the police department and Orange County Fire Authority.
 - F. Key switches, key vaults, padlocks, and radio controlled entry system installations shall be identifiable to approaching police personnel in a manner as approved by the police department.
 - G. An Emergency Access Plan shall be required when a radio controlled entry system, key switch, or key vault is required to be installed. The plan is to identify the location of each device on a site plan.