



MAYOR JIM NEWBERRY

# LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

*Division of Fire and Emergency Services  
Fire Prevention Bureau*

**Robert G. Hendricks, Fire Chief**

**James A. Branham, Fire Marshal**

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## PERFORMANCE AND OPERATION OF GATE SYSTEMS DURING AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The following standards and guidelines are promulgated and adopted by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Division of Fire and Emergency Services (the "Fire Department") in order to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the public, and may be enforced in accordance with the provision of Chapter 9 of the Code of Ordinances, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government ("LFUCG") assumes no responsibility whatsoever for any damages resulting from a gate, gate system, and/or barrier that fails to operate properly during an emergency response.

### I. PURPOSE.

- A. To provide minimum standards for accessing gated communities or properties during emergencies by personnel, vehicles, and/or equipment of the LFUCG.
- B. To reduce delays caused by certain vehicle access control devices or systems, or no vehicle access control devices or systems.

### II. APPLICATION. In order to ensure timely emergency response by the LFUCG without damage to person or property, the standards specified herein shall apply to the following types of gates, gate systems, or barriers, regardless of whether automatic or manual (hereinafter "gates"):

- A. Those serving more than two single family residences, or more than two two-family residences utilizing the same access point (driveway/street), or
- B. Those serving a multi-unit apartment/housing facility, or
- C. Those serving Commercial and/or Industrial facilities.

### III. STANDARDS.

- A. All gates shall require the approval of the Fire Department prior to installation. Unless otherwise stated herein, the Fire Department's Access/Water Control Officer is authorized to act on behalf of the Fire Department.

- B. In order for any gate to be approved it must meet the following minimum standards:

- 1. Set Back Requirement. In order to allow for the "stacking" of vehicles to prevent the obstruction of through traffic on public streets the set-back of the gate from a public street shall be a minimum of 40 feet, subject to topography, public street cross section measurements, and the possibility of existing gate piers that were previously approved.

## Gate Emergency Access Control Standard Continued:

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2. Access Requirements. In order to allow safe passage by certain emergency vehicles there must be a minimum of 13 feet, 6 inches vertical clearance height, and an access width of at least 20 feet of clear opening for a single lane, two way travel; or 14 feet of clear opening for each lane of a separate lane with a medium/divider and/or guard house.

3. It must be subject to immediate and ongoing access by LFUCG emergency personnel.

C. Automatic gates must meet the following additional minimum requirements:

1. Acceptable Systems.

(i) A touch pad, card reader, or battery remote operated system is an acceptable operating device for a gate. However, an adequate public safety radio frequency access control/operation emergency opening systems as described herein is still required.

(ii) Key pad operated systems. Such systems must provide for an additional "standing" lane to allow for additional vehicular traffic to queue out of the main route of ingress in the event of an emergency response, and allows for access by the residents of the property

2. All automatic gate operating devices (gate operators) shall be UL325 compliant.

3. Public Safety Radio Frequency Access Control/Operation. In order to afford emergency responders with access and control of automatic gates with their unmodified radios, the gate must provide for access and operation via a public safety radio. This is accomplished through an emergency access or control device. ( NOTE: Approval of any automated gate or barrier is subject to the owner accepting responsibility for any future programming requirements of the public safety radio frequency access control system in operation).

4. Gates Must Remain Open. The gate must remain fully open when activated by emergency personnel, and in accordance with the previously established frequency matrix for the system, if applicable (see attached as EXHIBIT "A").

5. Electrical Failure. In the event of loss of electrical power the gate must FAIL in the open condition. Sufficient battery support must be installed such that the gate opens and remains open pending resumption of electric service. Should a substantial battery back-up system be installed to allow multiple openings during loss of electric service, the FAIL in the open condition can be waived.

6. "Firemans Box". A "Firemans Box" or like approved device shall be provided for manual operation of the gate in the event of failure of any of the above devices. It must be secured with a locking device as approved by the Fire Department.

7. Maintenance and Testing. Each gate must be tested for proper operation at least once every four months, beginning with the date of installation. This must include a function test of the emergency access control system/s and any manual locking device, if such device is an approved feature of the design. In addition to function testing of the system any parts of the gate that require lubrication and or adjustment shall be addressed at this time. This requirement is in addition to any maintenance/repair that may be required due to normal daily use. Upon request, the person or entity responsible for the performance of the gate (property owner or Homeowner's Association) must provide annual maintenance records to the Fire Department which include the name, address and contact information of any person or entity responsible for performing the testing or maintenance.

8. If a gate fails to function as designed during an emergency response, then by order of the Fire Chief/Fire Marshal both electrical and or manual systems are subject to removal, and the gate will be secured in the open position.

These guidelines are approved as written by: Chief Robert G. Hendricks

**Robert G. Hendricks/Chief**

**Gate Emergency Access Control Standard Continued:**

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Exhibit "A"

Public Safety Radio Frequency Access Control/Operation Programming Data Table:

CHANN EL	AGENCY NAME & CHANNEL ID	FREQUEN CY	MODE	PL/DPL CODE	GAIN (RANGE)	RELAY: PULSE or S/M/H	1 OR 2 PULSE
0	Lexington- Fayette Metro Police CH 9	154.0550	P	141.3	80	3 MIN	ONE
1	Lexington-Fayette Metro Fire TA CH 9	859.4375	P	136.5	85	8 MIN	ONE