

SECURITY GATES

The PFD has long recognized that certain properties have installed security gates especially in apartment complexes. These gates can cause significant delays, impede fire and rescue truck placement, and generally reduce the efficiency of all emergency responders---fire, police, and EMS. However, it is the property owner's decision to install their security systems, and they have accepted the responsibility to accept the delays and other hindrances in emergencies.

Depending on the particular facility, there are Knox locks on 9-1-1 boxes or switches activated by the PFD or Harris County key. They may also have entry codes that allow for gate entry. There is concern of damage to vehicles due to possible malfunctions of gate controller systems and the size of fire equipment. PFD personnel shall not cause damage to gate systems unless it is absolutely necessary for emergency operations. Personnel should take necessary steps to block open gates, but not damage them, if possible.

Swing gates may be held open manually by relocating the drive arm over center, or by using a heavy object. Slide gates may be held open by using a solid object (pry bar) between the gate pickets, or the drive chain may be derailed or cut. Certain gates may be manually forced open by personnel- PFD apparatus SHALL NOT force open gates.

It is recommended that at least one PFD responder shall remain with the gate as it opens. This person should monitor the gate process and stop movement with appropriate tools if imminent damage to PFD personnel or equipment is likely. The gate will be manually held open as described in the paragraph above. Considerations will also be given for POV's. The same guidelines shall be followed during gate exits.

It is noted that in the event of major events, the PFD may render security gates inoperative by whatever means are necessary. Consideration must be given to minimize damage to gates or PFD equipment.

It is imperative that PFD members maintain key integrity by assuring all keys are accounted for. NEVER allow the key to remain in the lock/switch – TAKE IT WITH YOU.