

Limerick Fire and Emergency Services Key Lock Box Ordinance

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a key lock box program for the Town of Limerick for emergency access to commercial, industrial, government, and multifamily residential properties.

Article 1-Description

The Town of Limerick has determined that the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of the Town are promoted by requiring certain structures to have a key lock box installed on the exterior of the structure. The benefits of installing key lock boxes include providing immediate emergency access to fire and EMS personnel to increase efficiency, prevent costly forced entry damage, and allow properties to be re-secured after the emergency; further protecting the property and contents of the structure.

Article 2-Definition

Knox-Boxes®, or their approved substitute: A small wall mounted safe that holds building keys for fire department, emergency medical services and sometimes police to retrieve in emergency situations. The fire department holds the master key to all boxes within the town so that they can quickly enter buildings without having to force entry or delay entry waiting on property owner.

Article 3-Required Installation

- A. The following structures shall be equipped with a key lock box at or adjacent to the main entrance or such location as required by the Limerick Fire-EMS Department:
 - 1. Commercial and industrial structures
 - 2. Multifamily residential structures that have restricted access through locked doors but have common corridor access to the living units.
 - 3. Schools and other government structures
- B. All new construction subject to Subsection A of this section shall have a key lock box installed and operational prior to the issuance of an occupancy permit.
- C. All structures in existence on the effective date of this section and subject to Subsection A of this section shall have one (1) year from the enactment of this ordinance date to have a key lock box installed and operational.
- D. The following structures are exempt from the ordinance to install a key lock box system:
 - a. Detached residential one-family and two-family dwellings and one-family townhouses that are not more than three (3) stories in height.
 - b. Any structure having twenty-four (24) hour on-site security personnel who have full access to the entire structure.
 - c. Rental storage facilities where there is a single lock on separate storage pods that are renter supplied, however, the entry security gate will require a key lock box if electronically controlled or locked otherwise.
- E. The owner is responsible to order the key lock box through the Limerick Fire-EMS Department and install the key lock box.

Article 4-Notification of changes; updating information

The owner of any structure or property required to have a key lock box shall ensure that the keys contained within the box are up-to-date and provide access to the structure. Whenever a lock or new doors, gates or panels are installed within the structure or property the owner shall immediately notify the fire department to coordinate the placement of new keys in the key lock box.

Article 5-Contents of key lock box

- A. The key lock box shall contain the key(s) for all exterior doors and gates, and all interior doors and gates within the building, including but not limited to the following:
 - 1. Mechanical rooms
 - 2. Electrical rooms
 - 3. Elevator and elevator control rooms
 - 4. Fire alarm panels
 - 5. Pull station or other fire protection devices

Article 6- Violations and Penalties

Any person, entity or corporation who has violated any provisions of this ordinance or has failed to comply with this ordinance, such violation is a civil penalty pursuant to M.R.S. 30-A § 4452, enforced by the Fire Chief, Code Enforcement Officer, or Constable and subject to a fine in the amount of One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars to Twenty-Five (\$2,500.00) Dollars per day.

Article 7-Validity / Severability / Conflict

The invalidity of any provision of this ordinance shall not invalidate any other part or provision of this ordinance, If any of the provisions of this ordinance are inconsistent with the provisions of other ordinances of the Town of Limerick, or inconsistent with State or Federal law or regulation, the more stringent requirements shall be applicable and controlling.

Article 8-Amendments

This ordinance may be amended by a majority vote of any legal town meeting when such amendment has received public hearing, which hearing has been advertised and given a legal 10-day notice.

Article 9-Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect immediately by a majority vote of the legislative body.