

LAGRANGE TOWNSHIP

CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

ORDINANCE NO. 5-2022

ADOPTED: November 21, 2022

EFFECTIVE: January 2, 2023

An ordinance to protect the public health, safety and welfare by requiring Knox Box Quick Entry systems on all new commercial and/or industrial buildings; and on all commercial or industrial buildings undergoing reconstruction or repair; to provide an effective date; and to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith.

**THE TOWNSHIP OF LAGRANGE,
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

ORDAINS:

SECTION 1
NAME AND PURPOSE

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the Township of LaGrange “Quick Access Safety Ordinance”. The purpose of the ordinance is to assure that fire departments, fire responders, and other designated township officials have a way to access a commercial or industrial building in the event of an emergency. Use of such boxes tends to minimize damage made by emergency services during access, and can result in faster response to an emergency.

SECTION 2
SCOPE

This Ordinance mandates the installation of a Quick Access Knox Box for all new construction excepting single-family residential units and single-family accessory buildings, such as garages. The Ordinance mandates the use and installation of a Quick Access Knox Box on all reconstruction, renovation, and repairs requiring a building permit for all buildings except single family residential units and single-family accessory buildings. Nothing in this Ordinance shall prohibit the use and/or installation of a Knox Box, voluntarily, by an owner of any building, including single-family residential dwellings and accessory buildings; and existing buildings of any kind.

SECTION 2
REQUIREMENTS

- A. *Knox Boxes.* The installation of a Knox Box is required for all construction excepting single-family dwellings and/or single-family accessory buildings.
- B. *Acquisition.* Knox Box devices shall only be purchased at www.knoxbox.com.
- C. *Standards.*
 - a. A Knox Box of size “3200” series or larger shall be provided on the exterior of the building prior receipt of any occupancy permit. The building official is authorized to reduce the size of the Knox Box based on specific circumstances and/or size of the building and shall provide such permission, in writing, if granted.
 - b. The Knox Box vault shall be mounted, unobstructed and visible approximately five feet from ground level near a main access door.
 - c. A Knox elevator key box shall be installed adjacent to any elevator.
 - d. Externally-mounted Knox power shut off switches may be required by the Fire Chief or Township Building Official upon review.
 - e. Knox Box contents shall comply with the requirements established by the Building Official, who shall keep and maintain a listing of items that shall be retained in the Knox Boxes, which are not separately listed here.

SECTION 3
ACCESSIBILITY OF ORDINANCE

The Township Building Official shall provide a copy of this Ordinance to each building permit applicant (including mechanical, electrical, plumbing and building permits) specified in the paragraphs below and shall require the applicant to acknowledge receipt of the same:

- A. An applicant for all new construction except single-family residential dwellings and single-family accessory buildings; and
- B. An applicant for all renovation, repair, reconstruction, upgrade or improvement to any structure requiring a building permit other than a single-family residential dwelling and/or single-family accessory building; and
- C. The Township Building Official shall make a copy of this Ordinance available at the office of the building official.

SECTION 4
INSPECTION AND APPROVAL

As part of final inspection provided by any inspector of the Township pursuant to a permit for a building that requires a Knox Box, the Building Official shall review the location and implementation of required Knox Box. The Building Official shall not provide final occupancy of a building requiring a Knox Box unless the Knox Bos has been installed as required by this Ordinance.

The Building Official may provide a temporary occupancy permit in the event that a Knox Box on a building requiring one by this Ordinance has not been installed, only upon showing that such Knox Box has been ordered, and that the building has been retrofitted for such Knox Box. Such temporary occupancy shall be for no more than 45 days. The building official shall make a final inspection and provide final occupancy within such 45-day period.

SECTION 5
VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE

Nothing in this Ordinance shall prevent any person or corporation owning a building in LaGrange Township from voluntarily installing a Knox Box Quick Access System. Such installation shall be overseen by the Building Official and shall contain those items deemed necessary by the building official to allow quick access to an existing building, or a residential building or accessory building.

SECTION 6
VIOLATION AND PENALTY

Any firm, person, corporation, or partnership that fails to provide a required Knox Box shall be deemed to be a violation of this Ordinance. Any firm, person, corporation or partnership that occupies a building requiring a Knox Box without temporary or final occupancy approval by the Building Official shall be deemed to be in violation of this Ordinance. Any person, firm, corporation or partnership that fails to provide the required access tools in its Knox Box shall be deemed to be in violation of this Ordinance.

Violation of this Ordinance is a municipal civil infraction, punishable by a fine in accordance with the following schedule and court orders requiring compliance herewith.

First offense within three-year period	\$250.00
Second offense within three-year period	\$400.00
Fourth or more offense within three-year period	\$500.00

In addition to a fine, the Court shall order a violator to pay costs of not less than \$10.00; and the Township's costs of prosecution.

SECTION 7
SEVERABILITY

Should any section, clause or provision of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional, illegal or of no force and effect by a court of competent jurisdiction,

then and in that event such portion thereof shall not be deemed to affect the validity of any other part or portion of this Ordinance.

SECTION 8
REPEAL

Conflicting Ordinance provisions are hereby repealed. No provision of the State Construction Code as administered and enforced by LaGrange Township is repealed by this Ordinance.

SECTION 9
EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days after publication of a summary hereof, after adoption, as required by law.

Tasha E. McCoy, Clerk
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