

BULLETIN

NO: 22-015
DATE: February 2, 2022
TO: All Personnel
FROM: Anthony Tosca, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal, CRRD
SUBJECT: Implementation of Knox FDC Locking Caps

Fire Department Connections (FDCs) play a critical role in ensuring the safety of a building by allowing the fire department to provide or supplement water pressure to fire protection systems. FDCs are provided with a cap, or plug, to protect the threads and maintain the integrity of the fire protection system that it supplies. These protective caps are often missing which allows for trash and debris to accumulate inside the FDC, making the system unreliable for use. This debris has been found inside of standpipes and even fire department hose lines or nozzles after being utilized at a fire. A compromised FDC can cause a loss in water pressure or complete system failure which puts firefighters at risk.

The Knox company provides a Knox FDC Locking Cap which is designed to be installed and removed with a specially designed key wrench. The key wrench is unique to the Knox company but not to a specific jurisdiction as you are used to with the Knox key. This product is designed to help eliminate broken or missing caps which can lead to damage and unreliable systems.

SDFD has been provided with 1,000 key wrenches which will be distributed to each individual firefighter by their respective Battalion Chief. These wrenches are small and lightweight and can easily be carried in a turnout pocket. In addition, all front line and reserve apparatus will be outfitted with a combination spanner/key wrench which can remove the locking cap while also providing a spanner for making connections. Key wrenches will also be provided for adjacent jurisdictions to ensure they can access the FDC in the event they are responding to an incident within the City of San Diego.

Beginning April 30, 2022 FDC locking caps will be required for all new construction projects in the city where FDCs are installed. CRR Inspectors will also require locking caps for existing buildings in high density areas where vandalism and damage are most likely to occur. A new CRR policy (K-21-3) has been developed and is available on the city's website. Please review the training video assigned in Vector Solutions which demonstrates how to use the key wrench to remove the locking cap and access the FDC. For questions please email Supervising Deputy Fire Marshal, Daniel Hypes at DHypes@sandiego.gov