

Notice: To all owners of residential or commercial buildings with alarm systems that are connected to a central station or a direct dialer, Ordinance 1264 (8/15/2006) requires that a "Knox Box" that contains entry keys or codes be installed at an approved location at the building entrance. [Ordinance 1264 is at the end of this article]

What is a Knox box?

A Knox Box is a small steel box mounted by the building's entrance that only the Stone Harbor police have a key to open. The owner provides a key or access codes inside the box to allow the police to gain access to the property due to a burglar, fire or carbon monoxide alarm.

When do I have to install this?

The Ordinance requires installation by January 1, 2007 except for new construction, which is upon the activation of the alarm system.

How do I buy a Knox Box?

If you wish to purchase on the internet go to www.knoxbox.com click on on-line purchase, enter our zip code 08247 and the pick SH Vol. Fire Co. The WEB site will then take you through the purchase process. You must pay by credit card. The box will be shipped directly to you.

There are purchase forms available in the Police Dispatcher's office if you wish to purchase through the mail. The Borough is supplying these forms as an accommodation to our property owners but is not involved with the sale or delivery of goods.

I see there are many different types of boxes. Which one should I buy?

The Fire Chief recommends the least expensive box for residential use #1650, which costs \$139.00. For commercial and multi-unit properties, he recommends the #3201 at \$189.00. This box has a larger capacity.

*Do I need a Knox Box if I have a battery smoke detector and/ or a detector that is **not** connected to an alarm company?*

No. You only need a box if your alarm system reports a problem to a central station alarm company or directly dials the police department.

What advantage does this have for me?

Often when the police and the fire company arrive after an alarm has been sent to the dispatcher, they find that there is no one occupying the building. The Knox Box will allow the Police and Fire Department to gain entry and search the building immediately. This will save the property owner money by helping to reduce the damage to their property. The Police and Rescue Squad will also be able to enter if there is a call for medical help and the door is locked. These boxes have been in use in Stone Harbor for many years prior to the mandatory requirement and have proven that they are an advantage to properties that have installed them.

Who will have a key to the Knox Box?
Only the Stone Harbor Police Department.

Who will install the box?
The property owner can do it himself or herself or hire any contractor. There are boxes that require no installation because they clip over the top of the entry door. Any questions about the location should be directed to the Police Department. The Stone Harbor police must be contacted once the box is in place because they will have to lock the box once the entry key is inside.

Please read Ord. 129-7 below about registering a contact person for alarms.

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**BOROUGH OF STONE HARBOR
CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

ORDINANCE 1264

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 129 OF THE REVISED GENERAL
ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF STONE HARBOR, 2005**

(Requiring the Installation of Security Boxes to Allow Entry
to Structures with Activated Alarm Systems)

Section 1. Legislative Intent

WHEREAS, frequently the public safety departments of the Borough of Stone Harbor are called to the scene of activated alarms but are unable to obtain access to structures due to the fact that there is insufficient compliance with the “contact person” provisions of Chapter 129 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Stone Harbor, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a response by a contact person often leads to the necessity of members of the Fire Department or Police Department having to forcibly gain entry with consequential damage to property and risk of injury to the members of those departments; and

WHEREAS, the simple installation of a security device commonly known as a “Knox Box” would eliminate such damage and risk of injury by allowing Police and Fire responders access to a key to the property and the Borough Council finds that the installation of such security boxes would be of minimal cost to the owners of properties with alarm systems;

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stone Harbor that Chapter 129 of the Revised General Ordinances of the

Borough of Stone Harbor, 2005, be amended to require the installation of such devices.

Section 2. Chapter 129 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Stone Harbor, 2005, is hereby amended as follows:

Chapter 129: ALARM SYSTEMS

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stone Harbor as Sec. 4-26 of the 1982 Revised General Ordinances. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Noise — See Ch. 374.

§ 129-1. Applicability.

The owner and/or the occupant of any property in the Borough of Stone Harbor, which has located thereon a fire and/or burglar or other alarm system, shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter. Owner(s) and occupant(s) have joint and several liability. Alarm system is defined to be any system which reports a fire, burglar, and/or carbon monoxide level to a monitoring central station or reports by its own dialer directly to the police/fire departments. Mere smoke detectors or carbon monoxide detectors which only emit warnings within the property are not “alarm systems.”

§ 129-2. [No change]

§ 129-3. [No change]

§ 129-4. [Delete this Section – List as “Reserved”]

§ 129-5. Timing mechanism required.

All owners or lessees shall equip audible alarms with a timing mechanism that will disengage the audible alarm after a maximum period of 30 minutes. Audible alarms without such timing mechanism shall be unlawful in the Borough of Stone Harbor and must be disconnected by the owner or lessee.

§ 129-6. [No change]

§ 129-7. List of contact persons to be submitted.

Within 30 days of the publication of this article, or 30 days after the alarm system is installed, whichever occurs last, each person utilizing such system shall file with the Stone Harbor Police Department a prioritized list, reflecting the names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least one but not more than three contact persons who may be called by the Stone Harbor Police Department to secure any premises or shut off an alarm. If no contact person is named, the owner is designated to be the contact person.

129-7.1 [New section] Installation of Security Box Containing Key(s) For Access Required

The owner of any property equipped with an alarm system regulated under this Chapter shall install a security box containing a key or keys or any codes which allow full access to the property

in the event of an activated alarm. Security box shall be defined for purposes of this section as a secured, locked device that is located on the exterior of the premises at or near the main entrance which can be accessed by the Stone Harbor Police Department in the event that an alarm is activated and it is or becomes necessary to gain access to the premises in order to adequately determine the cause of the activation of the alarm. The security box shall contain a key or keys or code to provide such access to the premises. The security box shall be of a type that is commonly known as a "Knox Box" or the substantial equivalent thereof that is approved by the Police Chief. The precise location of the security box shall be subject to the approval of the Chief of Police. The requirements of this section shall be immediately effective for all new construction or new alarm system installations but for existing systems, the effective date is January 1, 2007.

§ 129-8. Personal appearance of contact person.

It shall be the responsibility of the person who utilizes an alarm system and who has supplied a list of contact persons to the Borough to insure that the contact person, when called, appears personally or through a designated representative at the property within 30 minutes of receipt of the call, to secure the premises or shut off the alarm as required by the Borough officials at the property. Failure of the contact person or representative to appear shall constitute a violation of this chapter by owner and occupant.

§ 129-9. [No change]

§ 129-10. False alarms.

It shall be a violation of this chapter for an alarm system to sound if it results in the appearance at the property of the Police Department, Fire Department or Rescue Squad, except in connection with an emergency situation such as a break-in, fire or other similar emergency.

§ 129-11. Violations and penalties.

- A. Each property shall be permitted two false alarms, per calendar year, before a person is charged with an offense under § 129-10. Proof of mailing notices of the two alleged false alarms shall be sufficient proof that such false alarms did in fact occur. Thereafter, any person violating § 129-10 shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to the following fines, which fines are to be reduced by one-half if the property has a "Knox Box" described in 129-7.1:
 - (1) For the third offense: a fine in the sum of \$100.
 - (2) For the fourth offense: a fine in the sum of between \$200 and \$300, inclusive, and a court appearance in connection with this offense may be mandatory.
 - (3) For the fifth and subsequent offenses, a mandatory court appearance is required and the fine shall be between \$300 and \$500.
- B. Except as provided in 129.11 (A)(1), (2), (3), and (C), any person convicted of a violation of any other provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, pay a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than the penalties set forth in Chapter 1, Article III, Penalty, of the Borough of Stone Harbor Code. *Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I).*
- C. Any person convicted of a violation of 129.7.1 for failure to install the required "Knox Box" shall, upon conviction, pay a fine of not less than \$150.

Section 3. If any portion of this ordinance is determined to be invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, that determination shall have no effect upon the remainder of this Ordinance, which shall remain valid and operable.

Section 4. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance, to the extent of such inconsistencies only, are hereby repealed.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

APPROVED:

Suzanne M. Walters, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne C. Stanford, Borough Clerk