



**CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
500 DALTON AVE
CHARLOTTE, NC 28206**



Code/Procedural Interpretation

CFD Interpretation: Installation of Security Gates

Date: May 27, 2014

Code Reference: North Carolina Fire Code, Section 503

Subject: Are there restrictions or guidelines for the installation of security gates?

Interpretation:

Yes. Security gates installed at private businesses, and gated communities such as multi-family residential complexes, shall provide a clear opening of no less than 20 feet in width where an *undivided* entrance/exit exists, and 16 feet for *divided* entrance/exits. Prior to installation, plan submittal and approval is required by Mecklenburg County's Land Use and Environmental Services Administration (LEUSA).

Gates shall also meet the following criteria:

1. Spike strips or similar devices for purposes of disabling vehicles are prohibited.
2. A KNOX key switch for emergency entry by the Charlotte Fire Department shall be installed.
3. There shall be no overhead obstructions lower than 13'-8".