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March 17, 2023

Commercial and Multifamily Property Owners

RE: Implementation of Universal Gate Access System

The Fire Chiefs Association of Broward County passed a Motion at its April's meeting to support and approve the new Universal Gate Access System. The Fire Prevention and MA and Communications Subcommittees have met and approved Click-2-Enter System.

The implementation of the Closest Unit Response (CUR) program in Broward County is an important step towards improving emergency response times and ensuring that those in need of life-saving assistance receive the quickest and most efficient care possible. Voters have amended the Broward County Charter requiring the County to implement the Closest Unit Response (CUR) program.

Emergency incidents meeting the CUR criteria require the closest fire rescue unit to respond to life-threatening emergencies across jurisdictional boundaries. One of the challenges faced by the program is the need for the responding agencies to have access to gated communities in a timely manner. A universally approved gate access system now addresses this issue by providing a standardized approach to granting access to emergency responders.

The Broward County Local Amendments (BCLA) to the Florida Fire Prevention Code (FFPC) has adopted a new Universal Gate Access System Requirement (F-108.9.3). This amendment subsection states, "All new and existing automatic entry gates installed in either commercial or multifamily communities shall be provided with a universal access system, approved by the Fire Prevention Subcommittee of the Fire Chiefs Association of Broward County, to allow rapid entry. Existing applications may be provided up to one (1) year to complete as approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

To comply with these requirements, all new and existing Commercial and Multifamily Communities with automatic entry gates must meet the requirements of F-108.9.3 of the Broward County Local Amendments to the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

The Universal Gate Access System prioritizes the safety and security of residents while also allowing for efficient and timely emergency response. Proper training and communication will also be necessary to ensure that all parties involved understand how the system works and how to use it effectively.

The implementation of the Universal Gate Access System will help support the success of the Closest Unit Response program and ultimately improve emergency response times and outcomes in Broward County.



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If necessary, contact your local Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau for additional information and guidance.

Please see the attached links below to assist with additional information.

- <https://fcabc.com>
- https://library.municode.com/fl/broward_county_board_of_rules_and_appeals/codes/the_florida_fire_prevention_code?nodeId=BRCOLOAMFLFIPRCO

Regards,

Chad Brocato, Fire Chief
FCABC President