

Scarborough Fire Department Partners with Scarborough Ace Hardware for Fire Prevention Month

By Captain Jim Butler, Fire Inspector/Commercial Code Enforcement Officer

The Scarborough Fire Department is pleased to announce our continued partnership with Scarborough Ace Hardware to provide the residential Knox HomeBoxes® program for our community.

The Knox Company developed a residential key box program as a companion to their long-standing and very successful commercial key box program for businesses. Installing a key box on your home and providing the fire department with access to a key, allows firefighters and EMS professionals to gain entry to your home using your key. This also prevents damage to doors or windows from us forcing entry when a patient can't come to the door. Knox HomeBoxes® make our responder's job easier by providing rapid access to the home so we can provide quick and efficient emergency response.

During public educational sessions, we have promoted the installation of these rapid access systems and regularly received feedback about the lack of availability of these boxes locally. While the option will always remain for residents to go the website www.Knoxhomebox.com to place their order and have the box shipped directly to your address, we wanted to provide another option. The solution was to partner with Scarborough Ace Hardware! They were willing and able to place a bulk order and keep them in stock for our Scarborough residents. We will be reviving this program at Scarborough Dunstan Ace Hardware located at 636 US Route One and Oak Hill Ace Hardware located at 29 Gorham Road beginning November 4, 2019. Be sure to bring a house key that can be copied at the hardware store. This will go inside your Knox HomeBox®. Once purchased you simply follow the instructions, which will include contacting us at the Scarborough Fire Department. We will schedule a convenient time for a firefighter to come to your home and assist you in the installation of your new HomeBox®.

During our visit, will bring our master key to unlock your HomeBox®. This master key is kept securely on our fire apparatus and any use is digitally logged. Our Firefighter will install the HomeBox® on your home's exterior door of choice. We then update our computer aided dispatch records that track these box locations so dispatchers and first responders are aware they are in place when they respond to your property. Each box comes with a small decal, which is reflective and goes in a conspicuous place. At the time of installation, we will review your emergency contacts and any special instructions in the event you or a family member needs to call 911. We can put that information on an emergency contact magnet so it is readily available in the event of an emergency.

We have a limited amount of boxes that may be purchased at a discounted rate for residents or that may not otherwise be able purchase one. For more information please contact Captain Butler of the Scarborough Fire Department at 207-730-4051.