

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, DORCHESTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, BY ADDING A SECTION TO CHAPTER 16, ARTICLE I, WHICH SHALL BE NUMBERED SECTION 16-2, TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF LOCKING CAPS ON THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTIONS ON ALL WATER-BASED FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, Dorchester County Council has determined that the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Dorchester County are promoted and safeguarded by requiring certain structures to have water-based fire protection systems with Fire Department Connections (FDC) installed on the exterior of the structure to aid Dorchester County Fire Rescue in extinguishing fires within the structure; and

WHEREAS, locking FDC caps will prevent unlawful access to the system and should avoid costly and time-consuming efforts in replacing missing caps or flushing systems after they have been tampered with.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by Dorchester County Council, duly assembled as follows.

SEC. 16-2.1 – PURPOSE

Dorchester County Council has determined that the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Dorchester County are promoted and safeguarded by requiring certain structures to have water-based fire protection systems with Fire Department Connections (FDC) installed on the exterior of the structure to aid Dorchester County Fire Rescue (DCFR) in extinguishing fires within the structure. To further ensure the security of these systems, locking caps on all FDC connections shall be used to prevent theft or tampering.

SEC. 16-2.2 – NEW CONSTRUCTION

1. All new construction plans submitted for approval with water-based fire protection systems on or after the adoption date of this ordinance must specify locking FDC caps, the size of which shall be based on the design of the system (either 2.5" locking caps or 5" Storz-style locking caps).
2. All new structures as set forth in Section 16-2.2 above shall have locking FDC caps installed and operational prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. All structures as set forth in Section 16-2.2 above for which a Certificate of Occupancy has been issued on or before the effective date of this section shall have twelve (12) months from enactment date of this Ordinance to have locking FDC installed and operational. Should the record owner of any existing structure for which a Certificate of Occupancy has been issued make written application to the fire chief within this twelve (12) month period that this structure be exempt from this requirement of the installation of a locking FDC, such exemption shall be granted provided that the record owner acknowledges and agrees that the County will not be held liable for any damages to the owner's structure resulting from a water-based fire protection system that was damaged due to not having locking FDC caps in place.
3. The type of locking FDC caps to be implemented within Dorchester County shall be a Knox

Box brand system or such other rapid entry system of comparable quality which has been specifically authorized in writing by the Fire Chief or his/her designee as being an acceptable substitution for the Knox Box brand system.

SEC. 16-2.3 – EXISTING CONSTRUCTION

1. All FDCs shall be inspected in accordance with the requirements of *NFPA 25: Standard for Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*. If any caps are missing from the system, all items listed in the above referenced standard shall be verified.
2. Any new or replacement caps being installed on existing FDCs shall meet the requirements of this ordinance. After installing the replacement caps, the installing contractor shall back-flush the FDC and provide a maintenance report to the property owner for review by the Fire Marshal. Failure to provide this maintenance report will constitute a violation on the fire inspection report. This violation shall remain in the report until the maintenance report is provided.
3. The Fire Chief or his/her designee must approve any changes in the installation.

SEC. 16-2.4 – MAINTENANCE

The operator of the building shall be responsible for the maintenance and condition of the locking FDC caps and shall immediately notify the Fire Chief or his/her designee in the event an FDC cap is damaged, destroyed, or removed for any reason.

SEC. 16-2.5 – FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Locking FDC cap keys shall be carried in a secure location on all DCFR first-due Fire Engine apparatus.

SEC. 16-2.6 – PENALTIES


1. Any person, entity or corporation who has violated any provisions of this Ordinance shall upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars. Each day a violation continues shall be considered a separate offense.

Ordained and enacted by Dorchester County Council on the 23rd day of July 2018.




James Lex Byars, III, Chairman
Dorchester County Council

ATTEST:


Tracey L. Langley, Clerk to Council