

**Maria N. Silva**

**Fire Chief**

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**Useppa Island Fire Rescue**

PO Box 640 Bokeelia, FL 33922

239-283-7578

***Emergency Dial 911***

***Established 1980***

Dear Homeowners,

We would like to thank all homeowners that are participating in the Knox Box Program. The Knox Box Rapid Entry System was specifically developed for the fire department, with one master key, the fire department can gain access to your residential property. This ensures the fire department rapid entry in the case of an emergency when you’re not home or unable to open the door yourself, which saves lives and property. We encourage those that have not purchased a box to do so during this season (2020). Due to liability reasons and the inefficiency of storing a large inventory of house keys Useppa Island Fire Rescue will **discontinue storing house keys** at the station and we will be transitioning to a **Knox Box System Only.** We will be returning all individual house keys during the month of January.

During the season of 2020 we will be contacting homeowners with Knox Boxes to coordinate a time to review the location of the boxes, verify the keys are working properly and labelled correctly. You will have the opportunity to place emergency contact information, alarm codes or any pertinent information you choose, it will need to be limited to the size of a business card.

Once the transition is completed the Knox Box System will be used **ONLY** in the event of **911 Emergencies** and therefore we urge you to make alternate arrangements with the Island to provide access to your home for any service calls. Again, if you do not have a Knox Box we encourage you to purchase one this season. You can purchase and have your residential Knox Box installed through Useppa Island Fire Rescue at cost. Lee County is in the process of mandating all local fire departments to implement the newest electronic version which is double the current price of $275. The current system will be grandfathered in and therefore we urge you to purchase the current boxes as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support,

Maria N. Silva

Fire Chief

*For more information email your questions to uifd@useppafire.org.or call 230-283-7578*