



TEMPLE TERRACE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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June 30, 2010

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KNOX BOX PROGRAM GETS A BOOST WITH DONATION

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – 6/30/10) – The Temple Terrace Fire Department received an important gift this week, a check for \$1,975 that will keep the City’s *Knox Box Rapid Entry System* alive.

Longtime resident D’ee Griffith presented the check to Temple Terrace Fire Chief Keith Chapman at Fire Station No. 1. City Manager Kim Leinbach was on hand to thank Griffith for her enthusiastic support.

Everyone knows the Knox Box system is a lifesaver, but opportunities to expand program have been curtailed because of budget issues, Chapman said.

“We have to rely on donations because of our budget situation,” he said. “In fact, donations really got the program going at the beginning. This donation will help us buy a dozen more Knox Boxes.”

The Knox Box is a small wall-mounted safe that holds building keys for firefighters to retrieve in emergencies. Firefighters carry a master key, giving them immediate access to homes or other buildings when needed.

The Temple Terrace Fire Department began using the Knox Box system in 2002. Griffith, 81, spearheaded the program, working hand-in-hand with the Temple Terrace Preservation Society and Fire Department Division Chief David Becker.

“It’s a program we take very seriously,” said Becker. “It’s had an impact on several people’s lives.”

Today, there are about 250 residential Knox Boxes in use in the City, he said. The boxes are particularly geared toward elderly folks living alone, elderly people with medical problems, and adults who have elderly relatives living with them.

Knox Boxes cost the City about \$160 each, and supplies are limited. Applicants who receive a Knox Box are asked to make a donation, if possible. Griffith, who also coordinates the volunteer *Paint With Pride* program, said she raised the money for the Knox Box program through local agencies, businesses and private donations.

“It’s really a good program, and I don’t want to see it die,” Griffith said. “I’m proud of it.”

To apply for a Knox Box, contact the fire department at (813) 506-6700. Application forms also are available on our website at www.templeterrace.com.

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