



ALARM PERMIT REGULATIONS

Emergency Alarms

- (1) **Alarm** means a signal from an alarm system indicating that an emergency exists requiring an immediate response by police, fire or emergency medical personnel.
- (2) **Alarm business** means the business by any person of selling, leasing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving or installing any alarm system in or on any building, structure or facility, or the business of monitoring such alarms.
- (3) **Alarm system** means any burglar, holdup, police, fire or other emergency alarm or device arranged to signal activity requiring the immediate response of police, fire and/or medical

personnel.

- (4) **Alarm user** means the person in control of any building, structure or facility wherein an alarm system is maintained.
- (5) **False alarm** means an alarm signal, either silent or audible, eliciting a response from police, fire or emergency medical personnel when the emergency for which it was designed does not exist.
- (6) **Public accommodation complex** means a building or complex of buildings used as public accommodations for rental or lease of thirty (30) days or less and is two (2) or more stories in height or contains more than six (6) apartments, dwelling units or guest rooms.

Alarm user permit required.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any alarm user to operate an alarm system in the Town without a valid alarm user permit.
- (b) An alarm user permit shall be obtained for each separate alarm system, prior to the use of the alarm system from the Police Department, upon payment of a yearly alarm system permit fee of thirty five dollars (\$35.00). Permits not renewed by January 31st shall be considered delinquent and subject to a \$20.00 late fee.
- (c) The alarm user shall provide such information deemed necessary by the Police Department for the expeditious and safe response of emergency personnel and the timely and effective billing of false alarm service fees. This information shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:
 - (1) Name, address and telephone number of the alarm system user.
 - (2) Name, address (physical and mailing) and telephone number of the person responsible for paying false alarm service fees.
 - (3) Address and accurate directions to the alarm system location.
 - (4) Purpose of alarm system.
 - (5) Name of installing contractor.
 - (6) Name and telephone number of two (2) or more responsible parties who would be available to access and secure the premises during any hour of the day or night in a timely manner if requested by the investigating officer.
 - (7) Name and telephone number of alarm monitoring center.
- (d) The alarm user holder shall immediately notify the Police Department in writing of any changes in the information on file with the Town regarding the alarm user permit.

Alarm system regulations.

- (a) No alarm system which transmits only an exterior audible signal to the general public shall be permitted within the Town, except residential smoke detectors.
- (b) Every audible alarm system, except a general fire alarm, shall be equipped with a device which automatically deactivates the alarm system not more than fifteen (15) minutes after the alarm is activated.
- (c) No alarm system shall be installed or used which emits a sound which is similar to that of an emergency vehicle siren or public warning system siren.
- (d) Alarm systems shall be equipped with electrical surge protection that will prevent alarm activation due to electrical surges, as well as a rechargeable battery power supply to prevent alarm activation due to failure or interruption of the primary electrical power source.
- (e) An alarm system equipped with an automatic dialer shall not be programmed to automatically dial the Police, Fire or Sheriff's Departments, Combined Communications Center or any other public agency unless given specific approval to do so by the Chief of Police.
- (f) All residential alarm system users shall be required to display the house address number so that it is visible and discernable from the street at all times of the year.

Instructions as to the operation of alarm systems.

It shall be the responsibility of the alarm user permit holder to instruct and re-instruct his or her agents, employees or occupants of rental properties in the proper use and operation of the alarm procedure in avoiding a false alarm charge. Fire alarm systems are not to be silenced or reset unless authorized to do so by the Fire Department.

False alarm service fees and penalties.

- (a) The alarm user permit holder is subject to the following service fees for all false alarms occurring within a calendar year:

Residential and Commercial Facilities:

- 0 through 3 false alarms - no fee
- 4 through 7 false alarms - \$50 per alarm

Public Accommodation Complexes:

- 0 through 5 false alarms - no fee
- 6 through 9 false alarms - \$50 per alarm

The eighth false alarm for a commercial or residential facility and the tenth false alarm for a public accommodation complex shall be deemed a failure to comply with the proper maintenance or operation of a trouble free alarm and a violation of this Article. The permittee shall be charged three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for this and each false alarm thereafter, and the permittee may be required to meet with the Chief of Police and the alarm contractor to determine the cause of the problem and discuss possible solutions.

- (b) No false alarm shall be counted under the provisions of this Section which occurs within thirty (30) days after the installation of the system.
- (c) All false alarm service fees shall be paid to the Town within fifteen (15) days from the date of billing by the Town. The Town shall notify the permittee of each false alarm in writing addressed to the permittee shown on the permit application.
- (d) Fees paid to the Town pursuant to this Section shall be allocated to the cost of operation of the Police Department.

Noncompliance deemed unlawful and a public nuisance.

Any alarm system or device which does not comply with the provisions of this Article is unlawful and a public nuisance and shall be abated as such

Appeals.

- (a) The Town Manager is authorized to hear appeals from alarm users on the issue of whether the alarm system in question activated a false alarm, as determined by the investigating officer at the scene of such alarm.
- (b) Upon receipt of any false alarm report from the Town, the alarm user shall have ten (10) days to request in writing a hearing.
- (c) At the hearing, the user shall have the right to present evidence and testimony.
- (d) The Town Manager shall make written findings available to the alarm user and Chief of Police within ten (10) days from the date the hearing is concluded.
- (e) A false alarm penalty may be waived by the Town Manager prior to the appeal process if the alarm signal was caused by extraordinary circumstances, such as a telephone line problem, which were beyond the control of the alarm user.