

CHAPTER 91: ALARM SYSTEMS

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§ 91.01 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

ALARM ADMINISTRATOR. A person or persons designated by the governing authority to administer and review alarm applications and permits.

ALARM AGENT. Any person employed by an alarm business whose duties include the altering, installing, maintaining, moving, repairing, replacing, selling, servicing, responding to, or causing others to respond to an alarm device.

ALARM SYSTEM. An assembly of equipment and devices or a single device, such as a solid state unit arranged to signal the presence of a hazard requiring urgent attention, and to which the Police or Fire Departments are expected to respond.

ALARM USER. Any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, or other organization of any kind in control of any building, structure, or facility where an alarm system is maintained or activated within the municipality, except for alarm systems on motor vehicles. Also included are those systems which employ an audible signal emitting sounds, or a flashing light or beacon designed to alert or signal persons outside the premises of an alarm activation.

AUTOMATIC PROTECTION DEVICE. An electrically operated instrument composed of sensory apparatus and related hardware which automatically sends over regular telephone lines, by direct connection or otherwise, a prerecorded voice alarm on receipt of a stimulus from the sensory apparatus that has detected a physical force or condition inherently characteristic of a fire or unauthorized intrusion. Also included are devices which are stimulated by direct action by the alarm user or his/her employees.

CENTRAL STATION ALARM. A facility whose purpose is to monitor incoming alarm signals 24 hours a day and relay the signal information to the appropriate authorities.

CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT. The Chief of either the Police or Fire Department of the municipality, or his/her authorized representative.

DIRECT LINE. A telephone line leading directly into the Southcom Combined Dispatch Center that is for use only to report emergency messages and signals on a person-to-person basis.

FALSE ALARM. Any type of alarm signal necessitating a response by the Police or Fire Department, or other municipal department, where an emergency situation does not in fact exist.

LOCAL ALARMS. A signaling system which, when activated, causes an audible or visual signaling device to be activated in or on the premises within which the system is installed.

PERSON. Any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or society, but such term does not include the Village of Matteson.

PUBLIC TRUNKLINE. A telephone line leading into the communications center of the Police Department, Fire Department or the Southcom Combined Dispatch Center that is for the purpose of handling emergency and administrative calls on a person-to-person basis.
('79 Code, § 97.01) (Ord. 988, passed 12-4-78; Am. Ord. 1227, passed 8-20-84; Am. Ord. 1904, passed 4-21-2003)

§ 91.02 APPLICATION FOR ANNUAL ALARM SYSTEMS AUTHORIZATION.

(A) The alarm user applying for the authorization required shall state on an application form, prepared by the Chief of Department and approved by the Village Attorney, his/her name; the address of the residence or business or businesses in or on which the alarm system has been or will be installed; his/her telephone number; the type of alarm system (local, direct connect, central station, fire, or other); the alarm business or businesses selling, installing, monitoring, inspecting, responding to, or maintaining the alarm system; and the name and telephone number of at least two other persons (in the case of a corporate alarm user applicant, at least three persons) who can be reached at any time, day or night, who are authorized to respond to an alarm signal, and who can open the premises in which the system is installed.

- (1) The registration fee for a residential alarm system permit shall be \$20 and will not be prorated.
- (2) The residential alarm user shall obtain the registration permit on or before May 1 of each year.
- (3) The registration fee for a commercial alarm system permit shall be \$35 and will not be prorated.
- (4) The commercial alarm user shall obtain the registration permit on or before May 1 of each year.
- (5) Any applicant for a residential or commercial alarm system permit shall be required to pay any past arrearages for registration fees or outstanding quasi-criminal judgments previously secured against the applicant as a result of prior multiple false alarms as set forth in this chapter. Such payment shall be considered as an absolute precondition before the approval of the annual registration permit.

(B) Every alarm user authorized under this chapter shall be required to have his/her alarm system inspected and tested at least once a year by a licensed alarm contractor or its agent. The person or persons performing this inspection and testing shall provide the alarm user with written documentation of their findings and testing.

(C) The information contained in an alarm user authorization permit application required by this section and other information received by the Chief of Department, or his/her designate, through correspondence or communications with an alarm user shall be securely maintained and restricted to inspection only by the Chief or certain officers or municipal employees specifically assigned the responsibility for handling and processing alarm user authorization permits in the course of official duties.

(D) Any alarm system user who operates an alarm system without obtaining an authorization permit as required by this section, or who, after having an authorization permit revoked, fails to disconnect his/her alarm system, shall be in violation of this chapter.

(E) All alarm users located in the village who directly connect to the Southcom Combined Dispatch Center will be required to pay a monthly fee for each alarm connection. This service shall be billed by and paid directly to the alarm contractor responsible for the maintenance of the Alarm Board.

('79 Code, § 97.02) (Ord. 988, passed 12-4-78; Am. Ord. 1227, passed 8-20-84; Am. Ord. 1400, passed 5-15-89; Am. Ord. 1489, passed 3-2-92; Am. Ord. 1904, passed 4-21-2003)

Matteson - General Regulations**§ 91.03 FALSE ALARMS.**

(A) When four or more false alarms are received within a 12-month period commencing on May 1 of each year, by the village, the Chief of Department or his/her representative shall cause a written warning to be sent via first class mail to the alarm user notifying him/her of the payment due. If further false alarms are received by the Police or Fire Departments, after the initial three false alarms, a quasi-criminal complaint may be initiated against the alarm user for each additional false alarm subsequent to those identified in the first class mailing mentioned above.

(B) There shall be no penalty assessed for a false alarm when, upon investigation by the Chief of Department, it is determined that the false alarm was caused by an uncontrollable extraordinary circumstance to include an act of God.

(C) An alarm user may appeal to the Chief of Department, or his/her delegate, for reconsideration of a designated false alarm if that alarm user presents written documentation to the Chief of Department, or his/her delegate, that he/she had undertaken reasonable action to discover and eliminate the cause or causes of any false alarm. The appeal must be made within seven days after the receipt of the payment due notice. If however, the alarm user, by reason of absence from the municipality or any other reasonable basis requests an extension of time to file his/her written report, the Chief of Department, or his/her delegate, shall extend the seven day period for a reasonable period. If the alarm user fails to submit a written report within seven days or within any extended period, or submits such a report and is denied a reconsideration, the false alarm determination shall stand.

(D) No alarm system designed to transmit emergency messages directly to the Southcom Combined Dispatch Center shall be tested or demonstrated without first obtaining permission from the Southcom Combined Dispatch Center. Permission is not required to test or demonstrate alarm devices not transmitting emergency messages directly to the Southcom Combined Dispatch Center, unless the messages are to be relayed to the Southcom Combined Dispatch Center.

(E) Failure to notify the Southcom Combined Dispatch Center prior to the maintenance or testing of an alarm system shall constitute a false alarm.

(F) Fines assessed for violations under this chapter shall be not less than \$50 and not more than \$200 for each single violation.

('79 Code, § 97.03) (Ord. 988, passed 12-4-78; Am. Ord. 1227, passed 8-20-84; Am. Ord. 1400, passed 5-15-89; Am. Ord. 1904, passed 4-21-2003) Penalty, see 91.99

§ 91.04 LOCAL ALARM SYSTEMS.

(A) No person, firm, or corporation shall be allowed to have a local alarm on or in any building, place, or premises within the municipality without first having obtained an alarm permit.

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(B) Local alarms are those alarms that sound audibly on the premises of the owner, renter, or lessee. Local alarms may be in addition to a central receiving station alarm. All local alarms shall be equipped with an automatic shut-off device which will deactivate within 30 minutes of the initial alarm. The person owning or operating an outside ringer shall have one year from the date of the amendatory ordinance to provide such automatic shut-off.

(C) It shall be the sole responsibility of the persons owning or operating a local alarm to maintain the system at the sole expense of the owner or operator.

(D) In addition to all other remedies provided by ordinance, the Chief of Department or his/her authorized representative, whenever he/she shall have knowledge of the misuse or improper maintenance of a local alarm system, may order the removal or deactivation of the system and the revocation of the alarm permit.

(E) Alarms affixed to vehicles of any type are not classified as local alarms and are exempt. ('79 Code, § 97.04) (Ord. 988, passed 12-4-78; Am. Ord 1227, passed 8-20-84; Am. Ord. 1904, passed 4-21-2003) Penalty, see § 91.99

§ 91.05 AUTOMATIC PROTECTION DEVICES; ACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

(A) No person shall use or cause or permit to be used any telephone device or telephone attachment that automatically selects a public trunk line of the Police Department or Fire Department of the municipality and then reproduces any prerecorded message to report any robbery, burglary, fire, or other emergency.

(B) Within 90 days after the effective date of this chapter, all automatic protection devices in the municipality that were keyed on that date to a public trunk line shall be disconnected therefrom. The owner or lessee of any such device shall be responsible for its disconnection and any related costs. ('79 Code, § 97.05) (Ord. 988, passed 12-4-78; Am. Ord. 1227, passed 8-20-84; Am. Ord. 1904, passed 4-21-2003)

§ 91.06 DISCONNECTING DEFECTIVE SIGNALING DEVICE.

In the event that the municipality finds it necessary to disconnect a defective signaling device, or in the event of a local alarm sounding an alarm in excess of one-half hour, the municipality shall incur no liability by such action. ('79 Code, § 97.06) (Ord. 988, passed 12-4-78; Am. Ord. 1227, passed 8-20-84; Am. Ord. 1904, passed 4-21-2003)

§ 91.07 RESETTING FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS.

Upon activation of a fire alarm system, the system shall not be reset (restored to a secured or clear condition) by any person until Fire Department personnel are on the scene and direct the system to be reset.

(Ord. 1904, passed 4-21-2003) Penalty, see § 91.99

§ 91.99 PENALTY.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall, on conviction thereof, be subject to a fine of not more than \$750 for each offense.

('79 Code, § 97.99) (Ord. 988, passed 12-4-78; Am. Ord. 1227, passed 8-20-84; Am. Ord. 1904, passed 4-21-2003)