

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 or 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 or her authorized representative.

FALSE ALARM. Any type of alarm signal necessitating a response by the Police or Fire Department, or other municipal department, where an emergency 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.

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.

(2000 Code, § 91.01) (Ord. 988, passed 12-4-1978; Ord. 1227, passed 8-20-1984; Ord. 1904, passed 4-21-2003; Ord. 4272, passed 6-1-2015)

§ 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 or 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 or 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) (a) 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.

(b) Such payment shall be considered as an absolute precondition before the approval of the annual registration permit.

(B) (1) Every alarm user authorized under this chapter shall be required to have his or her alarm system inspected and tested at least once a year by a licensed alarm contractor or its agent.

(2) The person or persons performing this inspection and testing shall provide the alarm user with written documentation of their findings and testing. Furthermore, the test results shall be reported to Brycer, The Compliance Engine no more than five (5) business days after the 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 or 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 or her alarm system, shall be in violation of this chapter.

(2000 Code, § 91.02) (Ord. 988, passed 12-4-1978; Ord. 1227, passed 8-20-1984; Ord. 1400, passed 5-15-1989; Ord. 1489, passed 3-2-1992; Ord. 1904, passed 4-21-2003; Ord. 4272, passed 6-1-2015) Penalty, see 91.99

§ 91.03 FALSE ALARMS.

(A) As a condition of any alarm system registration or usage under the provisions of this chapter, the registrant shall pay to the village, on issuance of a citation for any false alarm generated by the alarm user's alarm system. The fee shall be in accordance with § [91.99](#).

(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 or her designee, for reconsideration of a designated false alarm if that alarm user presents written documentation to the Chief of Department, or his or her designee, that he or 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 citation. 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 or her written report, the Chief of Department, or his or her designee, 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) Any person issued a citation for any false alarm generated by the alarm user's alarm system by the village for any provision of this chapter may request an administrative hearing in accordance with the municipal code of the village.

(Ord. 4255, passed 3-2-2015; Ord. 4272, passed 6-1-2015) Penalty, see § [91.99](#)

§ 91.04 NOTICES.

(A) Notice or billing from the village to any registration holder shall be deemed to have been given or rendered on the date such notice or billing is deposited in the United States mail, first class postage, prepaid, addressed to the registration holder at the address shown in the village's registration records. A certificate signed by the person who mailed the notice shall be prima facie evidence of the facts state therein with respect to such notice.

(B) Notices or payments to the village under this chapter shall be effective when received at the appropriate village office.

(Ord. 4272, passed 6-1-2015)

§ 91.05 FAILURE TO PAY CITATIONS.

(A) For all non-fire alarm systems, if the alarm user fails to pay the false alarm citation, written notice shall be sent to the user by certified mail. If payment is not made within ten days from the date of the mailing, then the user's permit to maintain an alarm shall be revoked by the coordinator. The system shall be removed from the protected premises within 15 days, unless a decision by the coordinator allows for reinstatement of the alarm systems registration.

(B) In the case of fire alarm system, for which the nuisance alarm citation has not been paid, upon determination of the coordinator, or his or her designee, registration may be revoked and the State Fire Marshal notified. If such action is taken in a location required by state law to have an operable fire alarm system, the premises may be closed until the alarm is brought into compliance, and/or citation has been paid, or an approved fire watch must be implemented.

(Ord. 4272, passed 6-1-2015)

§ 91.06 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.

(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 or her authorized representative, whenever he or 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.

(Ord. 4272, passed 6-1-2015)

§ 91.07 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.

(Ord. 4272, passed 6-1-2015)

§ 91.08 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.

(Ord. 4272, passed 6-1-2015)

§ 91.09 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.

(2000 Code, § 91.07) (Ord. 1904, passed 4-21-2003; Ord. 4272, passed 6-1-2015) Penalty, see § [91.99](#)

91.10 FIRE ALARM SYSTEM DEVICES

At the change of occupant, Where fire alarm systems provide audible alarm coverage, alarms shall comply with the 2018 Illinois Accessibility Code, Chapter 2; Section 215. 215.2 Public and Common Use Areas. Alarms in public use areas and common use areas shall comply with 702. 215.3 Employee Work Areas. Where employee work areas have audible alarm coverage, visible alarms complying with 702 shall be provided.

§ 91.99 PENALTY.

(A) 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.

(B) Fines assessed for violations under this chapter shall not be less than \$250 for each single violation.

(C) False alarm billing shall be based on a calendar year cycle. The first two (2) false alarms received in the calendar year may not have a fine assessed if determined to have been transmitted in error by the Chief of Department or his or her designee. All subsequent false alarms shall be billed at \$300.00 with a \$100.00 escalator per each subsequent occurrence.

(Ord. 4272, passed 6-1-2015)