

INTRODUCTION

In an effort to reduce the number of false alarms occurring within Woodinville City limits, Ordinance #220, "False Alarms," was adopted by the City Council in late 1998. This brochure provides general information as to the regulations. Woodinville Police personnel are available to assist you further regarding the requirements of this ordinance. You are encouraged to take necessary steps to prevent false alarms.



REQUIREMENTS

Major requirements of the ordinance include, among others:

- ✓ **Alarm users** shall submit a Contact Card Registration with the Woodinville Police. **(Cards are available from City Hall)**
- ✓ **Alarm users** must display the Contact Card Registration decal at or near a main entrance of the premises, which must be clearly visible and readable from the exterior of the premises.
- ✓ **Alarm users** shall display the street address at or near the front of the premises and at other places where access is available. Address must be clearly visible from the exterior of the premises.
- ✓ If requested by the Police, the **alarm user** or designee shall respond to a premises.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions and terms may help you understand the requirements of the False Alarm ordinance: (A complete definition section is contained in the ordinance.)

Alarm Business/Monitoring Company: The business by any individual, partnership, corporation, or other entity of selling, leasing, maintaining, monitoring, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving or installing any alarm system or causing to be sold, leased, maintained, serviced, repaired, altered, replaced, moved or installed any alarm system on real property.

Alarm system: Any system, device or mechanism which, when activated, transmits a telephone message to a private monitoring company or some other number, or emits an audible or visible signal that can be heard or seen by persons outside the protected premises, or transmits a signal beyond the premises in some other fashion, except any system, device or mechanism primarily protecting a motor vehicle, or medical alarm.

Alarm User/Operator: The person that controls both the alarm system and the premises upon which it is installed; the person that controls the premises and is the subscriber, client or tenant of the system subscriber; or the person is the system subscriber or alarm user.

Burglary alarm system: An alarm system designed or used for detection and reporting of an unauthorized entry or attempted unauthorized entry upon real property protected by the system.

False Alarm: The activation of any burglary and/or robbery alarm system when no crime is being committed or attempted on the premises. An alarm shall be presumed to be false if the police officers responding do not locate any evidence of an intrusion or commission of an unlawful act or emergency on the premises which might have caused the alarm to sound, but does not include alarms caused by violent conditions of nature or other extraordinary circumstances not reasonably subject to control by the alarm business operator or alarm user.

Robbery alarm system: An alarm system designed or used for alerting others of a robbery or crime in progress which involves potential serious bodily injury or death.

PENALTIES/VIOLATIONS

Violations of Ordinance #220 constitute a civil infraction which is punishable by a fine of \$250 for each day the violation exists. Violations include:

- ✓ No person shall operate or use an alarm system which emits an audible sound where such emission does not automatically cease within 15 minutes. Nothing in this section shall limit the duration of a fire or evacuation alarm during a bona fide emergency.
- ✓ No person shall use an alarm system to protect more than one business and/or private residence without completing a separate Contact Card Registration for each premises.
- ✓ No person shall operate or use any alarm system for which the Contact Card Registration has been revoked.
- ✓ No person shall operate or use any alarm system which automatically dials the department or City directly and delivers a prerecorded message.

Appeals: An alarm user may appeal the validity of a false alarm determination to the City's Hearing Examiner. The appeal must be in writing and shall be requested within 10 days of the notice of penalty. An appeal fee is required.

EXCESSIVE ALARMS

Service charges will be assessed by the City for excessive false alarms during the registration year (July 1 to & including June 30) as follows:

For commercial alarms

3rd, 4th and 5th False Alarms.....\$50.00

For residential alarms

4th and 5th False Alarms.....\$50.00

For commercial and residential alarms

6th and additional False Alarms.....\$100.00

An alarm user will be notified by the City of the third (3rd) commercial false alarm or fourth (4th) residential alarm including the service charge, the right of appeal and the consequences of failing to pay the assessed service charge. The alarm user may appeal the determination within 10 days of receiving the Notice of Penalty.

NO RESPONSE

After the 6th false alarm in a six-month period, the Police Chief/designee shall send written notification to the alarm user advising that the police may not respond to subsequent alarms. The alarm user may request reinstatement from the Chief. Reinstated alarm users will be billed for any false alarm responses after reinstatement. No reinstatement will be approved if there are any outstanding service charges due. If the Chief determines there will be no police response, written notification shall be sent to the communications center, police department, alarm user (certified mail) and the persons listed on the alarm user's registration (certified mail). Suspension of police response shall begin 10 days after the delivery of the Notice of Suspension.

The Police will not initiate "no response" for residential alarm owners/users; however fines will be applied for excessive false alarms as described above.



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Woodinville Police
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City of Woodinville Police Department

FALSE ALARM REGULATIONS



Important information for residential and commercial burglary alarm owners and users.