

WAUPACA COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES
Chapter 23
OPERATION OF EMERGENCY ALARM SYSTEMS:
PROHIBITION OF FALSE ALARMS

23.01 DEFINITIONS

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- A. Alarm business** means any business which engages in the activity of altering, installing, leasing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, selling or servicing alarm systems.
- B. Alarm system** means any device designed for the detection of unauthorized entry on premises, for alerting others of the commission of an unlawful act, or for the detection of a fire, which when activated produces a signal intended to alert.
- C. False alarm** means any of the following:
 - 1. The activation of an alarm system through the negligence of the user of an alarm system or their employees or agents.
 - 2. The activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure or malfunction because of improper maintenance by the alarm user or their employees or agents.
 - 3. The activation of an alarm system because of improper installation and/or use of the equipment by the alarm business.

These definitions do not include false alarms caused by weather related conditions, or by prior arrangements made for testing of the alarm system.

23.02 PENALTIES FOR FALSE ALARMS

If there is a false alarm, the user of an alarm system, their employees or agents and/or alarm business is subject to the following penalties:

- A.** For the first false alarm in one twelve month period, the user of an alarm system and/or alarm business shall be given a written warning by a representative of the county sheriff's department.
- B.** For the second false alarm in one twelve month period, the user of an alarm system and/or alarm business shall be subject to an administrative charge in the amount of \$50.00.

- C. For the third false alarm in one twelve month period, user of an alarm system and/or alarm business shall be subject to an administrative charge in the amount of \$100.00.
- D. For each false alarm violation thereafter, during the same twelve month period, user of an alarm system and/or alarm business shall be subject to an administrative charge equal to the most recent administrative charge plus \$50.00.

23.03 ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES; FAILURE TO PAY

- A. All administrative charges shall be paid to the county sheriff's department within thirty (30) days of assessment.
- B. Failure to pay such administrative charges shall constitute a violation of this article, and such administrative charge shall be doubled. The owner shall pay the double administrative charge within fifteen (15) days of notification. Upon nonpayment, such charges shall be collectible as forfeiture upon prosecution and conviction, together with the costs of prosecution.

23.04 FINDINGS REGARDING FALSE ALARMS; INTENTIONAL FALSE ALARMS

- A. Each false alarm requires the response of public safety personnel, involves unnecessary expense to the county, increases risk of injury to persons or damage to property and dilutes the overall public safety protection to the county. Such false alarms constitute a public nuisance and must be abated.
- B. No person shall intentionally cause the activation of an alarm system knowing that no criminal activity, fire or other emergency exists.

23.05 TESTING

- A. No alarm business or alarm system designed to transmit emergency messages to the county sheriff's department shall be tested or demonstrated without prior notification and approval of the county sheriff's department. The user of an alarm system and/or alarm business will be advised on proper test procedures.
- B. No alarm system relayed through intermediate services to the county sheriff's department will be tested to determine the county sheriff's department's response without first notifying the appropriate authority. However, the county sheriff's department may inspect or test on-site alarm systems.
- C. Alarm systems shall be in compliance with all pertinent response policies of the county sheriff's department.

23.06 ALARM REGISTRATION

No alarm user shall operate, or cause to operate, an alarm system at its alarm site without valid registration. Registration is the responsibility of the owner and will be made annually on a Waupaca County Sheriff's Department approved form on file with the Waupaca County Sheriff's Department.

23.07 RESPONSE TO UNREGISTERED ALARMS

Should the county sheriff's department be required to respond to a location where an unregistered alarm is present, the user of the alarm system or their employee/agent will be instructed that the alarm must be registered within thirty (30) days of the false alarm incident. Alarms not registered within thirty (30) days will be subject to an administrative charge in the amount of \$50.00.