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CHAPTER 125

ALARMS

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125.01 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. “Alarm agent” means any person employed by an alarm business whose duties include the altering, installing, leasing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, selling, servicing or responding to an emergency alarm system or causing any of these activities to take place.
2. “Alarm business” means any business operated by a person for profit which engages in the activity of altering, installing, leasing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, selling, servicing or responding to an emergency alarm system or causing any of these activities to take place.
3. “Alarm coordinator” means the individual designated by the Police Chief to administer the provisions of this chapter.
4. “Annunciator” means the instrumentation of an alarm console at the receiving terminal of a signal line which, through both visual and audible signals, shows when an alarm device at a particular location has been activated.
5. “Automatic dialing device” refers to an alarm system which automatically sends over regular telephone lines, by direct connection or otherwise, a prerecorded voice message or coded signal indicating the existence of the emergency situation that the alarm system is designed to detect.
6. “Central station monitored system” means a system in which the operation of electrical protection circuits and devices are signaled automatically to, recorded in and supervised from a central station having trained operators in attendance at all times.
7. “Direct connect system” means an alarm system which has the capability of transmitting alarm signals, via leased telephone lines, to an alarm annunciator at an agency maintained by the local government.

8. “Emergency alarm system” means an assembly of equipment and devices arranged to signal the presence of a hazard requiring urgent attention of the Police Department.
9. “Equipment supervising device” refers to any device utilizing an alarm system to signal the existence of a situation or condition not directly related to the detection of an intrusion or any hazard to which a tax-supported emergency service would not ordinarily be expected to respond.
10. “False alarm” means the activation of an alarm system caused by mechanical or electronic failure, improper installation, equipment malfunction or the negligence of the user or operator, except the following shall not be considered false alarms:
 - A. Alarms caused by the malfunction or failure of the monitoring equipment located at a tax-supported dispatch facility.
 - B. Alarms caused by damage to or by the testing or repair by the telephone company of telephone equipment or lines.
 - C. Alarms caused by an extraneous accident or an act of God such as earthquake, flood or violent windstorm.
 - D. Alarms intentionally caused by the resident, owner or employee acting under the sincere belief that a need exists to call for emergency service.
 - E. Alarms followed by an immediate call or signal to the dispatching center canceling the alarm, such call having been made prior to the arrival of the emergency service.
11. “Local alarm system” refers to a signaling system which, when activated, causes an audible and/or visual signaling device to be activated in or on the premises within which the system is installed.
12. “Medical alert” means a device attached to the alarm system for the express purpose of summoning emergency medical help.
13. “Primary trunk line” means a telephone line leading directly into a communications center that is for the purpose of handling emergency calls on a person-to-person basis, and which is identified as such by a specific number included among the emergency numbers listed in the telephone directory.
14. “Proprietary alarm system” means an alarm system sounding and/or recording alarm and supervisory signals at a control center under the supervision of the proprietor of the protected premises with the intent of tax-supported emergency services.

15. “Secondary trunk line” means a telephone line leading into the Police Department that is identified by a specific listing in the telephone directory for handling administrative and other calls on a person-to-person basis.

16. “Special trunk line” means a telephone line leading into the dispatching center having the primary purpose of handling emergency services or messages originating from automatic dialing devices.

125.02 ALARM USER PERMITS.

1. Every alarm user shall obtain from the Clerk within ninety (90) days after the effective date of this Code of Ordinances a nontransferable alarm user permit for each alarm system, excluding proprietary alarm systems that said person operates within this jurisdiction. There shall be a ten dollar (\$10.00) permit fee for the first calendar year for which a permit is obtained for an alarm system, except permits issued after June 1, for which the initial permit fee shall be five dollars (\$5.00), and the renewal fee for an alarm user permit shall be five dollars (\$5.00). All alarm user permits will expire on December 31 of each year.

2. Alarm systems in service at the time of the effective date of this Code of Ordinances are exempt from the payment of the initial permit fee for alarm user permits but will be subject to renewal fees.

3. The alarm user applying for an alarm user permit shall state on a permit application form the user’s name, the address of the residence or business or businesses upon which the alarm system has been or will be installed, the user’s telephone number, the alarm business or businesses selling, installing, monitoring, inspecting, responding to and/or maintaining the alarm system and the name and telephone number of at least one other person who can be reached at any time who is authorized to respond to an alarm signal and who can open the premises in which the system is installed.

4. The information contained in an alarm user permit application and other information received by the City from an alarm user or agent shall be maintained in confidence by the City to the degree permitted by applicable State and Federal law. The information is restricted to inspecting only by the Police Chief, the alarm coordinator or employees specifically assigned the responsibilities of handling and processing alarm user permits in the course of their official duties.

125.03 EXEMPTIONS. The City and all alarm users who, in cooperation with the Police Department, control an alarm system owned by the Police Department, shall not be subject to the terms and conditions of this chapter.

Other government agencies are subject to this chapter with the exception of permit fees and fines.

125.04 AUTOMATIC DIALING SYSTEMS. No unauthorized automatic devices shall be interconnected to any trunk lines with the Police Department. All such devices interconnected to the Police Department shall be disconnected by the owner or lessee of such device within ninety (90) days after the effective date of this Code of Ordinances.

125.05 LOCAL ALARM SYSTEMS. All emergency alarm systems equipped with any exterior sound-producing device shall within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Code of Ordinances be equipped with a timing device which limits the operation of an exterior sound-producing device to fifteen (15) minutes.

125.06 EQUIPMENT SUPERVISION DEVICES. No person shall connect an alarm supervision or managing device to an alarm system which will cause the response to be a tax-supported emergency service.

125.07 OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

1. All systems installed after the effective date of this Code of Ordinances, excluding proprietary systems, must be so installed, that if the main source of power fails, the system will not cause a false alarm, due to the power failure, within four (4) hours.
2. Beginning ninety (90) days after the effective date of this Code of Ordinances, previously installed alarm systems must be so modified that if the main source of power fails, the system will not cause a false alarm, due to power failure, within four (4) hours.
3. All systems installed after the effective date of this Code of Ordinances must have a means to test the detection circuits prior to arming.

125.08 SUSPENSION OF ALARM USER PERMITS. Sixty (60) days after the effective date of this Code of Ordinances the following limits are established for each alarm system:

1. Upon receipt of the third false alarm within a calendar month, a warning notice shall be issued by the alarm coordinator to the alarm user. Upon any additional false alarms, a causation report must be filed with the alarm coordinator by the alarm user within ten (10) days after the alarm.

2. Upon receipt of the fourth false alarm within a calendar month, the alarm user shall be subject to the following service fees to be paid to the Clerk within ten (10) days after notice that it is due:

- A. 4th false alarm \$25.00
- B. 5th false alarm \$50.00
- C. 6th false alarm and each subsequent false alarm..... \$100.00

3. Upon receipt of the tenth false alarm within a calendar month, a notice of suspension shall be issued by the alarm coordinator to the alarm user. The notice shall be sent by regular mail and shall be effective ten (10) days after postmarked date of the notice. Such suspension shall be effective until certification by the Police Chief or designee that the problems or fault with the alarm system, resulting in the occurrence of false alarms, have been corrected.

4. The failure of the alarm user to pay any of the services or permit fees within the time specified in this chapter will result in alarm permit suspension until such payments are made.

5. For accounting purposes, all false alarms in a twenty-four (24) hour period (from noon to noon) with a maximum of three (3), will be counted as additional false alarms.

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