



### **City Ordinance Chapter 6.47 - Police Alarm Systems**

Any premise that has an operating alarm system is required to have an alarm user permit application on file with the Elgin Police Department. *There is no charge or annual fee for this permit.*

Permit applications are available on the city website <http://cityofelgin.org> HOW DO I...?...register

**False Alarms Fines and Notifications:** Any alarm user permittee who has more than four (4) false alarms within a calendar year at a single protected location will be assessed fines **per each false alarm** according to the following fine schedule:

5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> false alarm: one hundred dollar (\$100.00) fine  
9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> false alarm: two hundred dollar (\$200.00) fine  
More than ten (10) false alarms: three hundred dollar (\$300.00) fine

All fines must be paid within thirty (30) days from the date of the invoice.

**What is a False Alarm:** Activation or transmission of any alarm signal caused by human error, mechanical or electronic malfunction, negligence of the alarm user or alarm user's employee, whether or not the exact cause of the alarm activation is determined, or any other activation or transmission of any alarm signal where no actual or attempted burglary or robbery exists? Severe weather, power outages, transmission line malfunctions, acts of God, malicious acts of persons not under the control of the alarm user, or any other cause clearly beyond the control of the alarm user will be considered in determining if an alarm activation was false and whether or not any occurrence, fine, warning or other punitive action will be taken against the alarm user as provided for by this Chapter.

Questions pertaining to alarms, call  
Alarm Administrator Terri Moore at 847-289-2749

**Causes of False Alarms:** There are a number of causes for false alarms but understanding how and why they occur can help prevent them.

**Human Error:** Forgotten or incorrect passcode, failure to cancel alarm activation with the monitoring company.

Passcode not provided to; cleaning crews, construction workers, delivery persons, pet, baby or house sitters.

**Overly sensitive motion detectors:** Balloons, curtains, fans, heaters, plants, etc... in the path of the motion detector(s), wandering pets in the path of the motion detector(s), unlocked or loose doors and windows.

**System malfunction:** Weak batteries or lack of back up battery.

### **Tips to Decrease or Prevent False Alarms**

- Ensure that all family members or employees are trained on the security system and are aware of the proper cancel procedures any passwords.
- Purchase a system which best meets the needs of your home or business.
- Have the system inspected yearly by a professional to assure that the system is working properly.

### **What to do in case an alarm is set off accidentally**

Accidents happen but how a home or business owner responds to a false alarm can help ensure immediate help when you need it.

- Enter the disarm code to reset the system.
- Cancel the alarm; notify the alarm company or monitoring station.
- **Do not call 911 to cancel** the alarm, use the non-emergency police number 847-289-2700.

