

False Alarm Municipal Code

Effective January 1, 2015

14.70.190 False alarms

A.

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

Alarm means any operable device except an official municipal fire alarm, but including, without limitation, automatic dialing devices which telephone a prerecorded message or transmit a signal or message to the police department and devices that produce an audible or visible signal which is intended to alert the police or some other person that a criminal act or other emergency exists and requires assistance. Devices commonly known as smoke alarms intended primarily for residential use and designed to emit a signal upon the detection of smoke, fumes or heat shall not be considered alarms for purposes of this chapter.

Chief of police means the chief of the municipal police department or the chief's designee.

False alarm means an alarm signal that the chief of police determines is caused by a reason other than that condition which the alarm is designed or intended to detect or a natural phenomenon beyond the control of the owner.

Owner means a person who is responsible for the proper operation of an alarm under this chapter and who has registered with the chief of police pursuant to section C.

B.

Prohibited acts.

1. No person shall knowingly cause, permit or allow a false alarm signal to be emitted from an alarm.
2. No person shall knowingly own, install, connect, operate or possess an alarm except as provided in this chapter.
3. No person shall knowingly own, operate, connect, install or possess an audible alarm unless that alarm automatically ceases to emit an audible sound after 15 minutes and does not repeat the audible sound thereafter.

4. No person shall knowingly install, connect, own or possess an automatic direct dial alarm in such a fashion as to ring any telephone number at the police department other than those which the chief of police may designate for such use.

C.

Alarm registration. A person who owns or possesses an alarm shall register immediately certain information required by the chief of police, including, without limitation, the identity of the owner, the location of the alarm, and the name and telephone number of a responsible individual for that alarm. An owner shall file annually thereafter the alarm registration update by no later than January 31 and is under a continuing obligation to keep the information on the owner's registration current by reporting any change to the chief of police within ten calendar days of the change. The police department shall charge a one-time new registration fee of \$50.00. Timely consecutive annual registration update for the same alarm at the same location requires no fee. Alarms owned or possessed by the municipality or Anchorage School District are exempt from payment of fees, charges and penalties imposed by this chapter, but shall register.

False alarm charges.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the owner of an alarm shall pay a charge in accordance with this section for each false alarm to which the police or fire department are dispatched:
 - a. *Fire department:*
 - i. First false alarm at each identifiable separate location: No charge.
 - ii. Each subsequent false alarm in excess of one: \$500.00
 - b. *Police department:*
 - i. First false alarm at each identifiable separate location within a calendar year: No charge.
 - (A) Second and third false alarm within the same calendar year: \$125.00 each.
 - (B) Each subsequent false alarm within the same calendar year: \$25.00 more than the prior false alarm charge at the same identifiable location.

(C) For purposes of false alarm charges, date and time of receipt by the police department shall determine the date and time of the false alarm, and the calendar year shall end and reset on December 31 at midnight. False alarms received by the Police department in the time period after 12:00 midnight on December 31 until 12:00 midnight on the next following December 31 are within the same calendar year.

- c. A single identifiable location that has 12 false alarms in any calendar year shall have its alarm registration automatically revoked by the chief of police, and the owner shall have the alarm disconnected, disabled or rendered inoperable. After such revocation, the alarm at that location cannot re-register until the owner presents proof to the chief of police the mechanical or personnel issues causing the frequent false alarms have been resolved. Immediately following the chief of police's approval, the owner shall re-register the alarm in accordance with this section and pay the applicable false alarm charges and new registration fee regardless of when the registration fee was last paid.
- 2. The municipality shall bill the owner for false alarms, and the owner shall pay those charges in the manner provided by the municipality. If an owner fails to pay charges assessed pursuant to this section, the municipality may seek payment by any lawful means.
- 3. This section shall not apply to a false alarm occurring within 30 days immediately following installation of that alarm.
- 4. All false alarms charges shall be deposited in the appropriate service area fund.

D.

Existing alarms. Any person who presently owns, operates or possesses any alarm within the municipality which does not conform to the requirements of this chapter shall disconnect that alarm and render it inoperable or alter it in accordance with this chapter no later than June 18, 1980.

E.

Penalty.

1. In addition to any other remedy or penalty provided by this section, a person who violates a provision of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$2,000.00 for each offense, or injunctive relief to restrain the person from continuing the violation or threat of the violation, or both such civil penalty and injunctive relief. Upon application by the municipality for injunctive relief and a finding that a person is violating or threatening to violate a provision of this chapter, the superior court shall grant injunctive relief to restrain the violation.

2. Each day during which a violation described in this section occurs shall constitute a separate offense.

(AO No. 80-18; AO No. 98-59(S), § 1, 5-19-9; AO No. 99-157, § 1, 3-7-00; AO No. 2001-145(S-1), § 3, 12-11-01; AO No. 2003-73, § 3, 4-22-03; AO No. 2010-81(S-1), § 1-2, 12-7-10, eff. 1-1-10; AO No. 2011-46, § 1-3, 4-12-11; AO No. 2014-42, § 32, 6-21-14)

Editor's note—

Formerly, chapter 8.40.