

TITLE 3
CHAPTER 6

ALARM SYSTEMS

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3-6-1: PURPOSE: The purpose of this Section is to protect the emergency services of the City from misuse, and is to govern burglary and robbery alarm systems, and to regulate alarm businesses. (Ord 17, Series 1991).

3-6-2: DEFINITIONS:

ALARM BUSINESS The business by any individual, partnership, corporation or other entity of selling, leasing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving or installing any alarm system in or on any building, structure or facility, or providing alarm monitoring services. (Ord 17, Series 1991).

ALARM MONITORING Any services provided an alarm user to assist in fulfilling the purpose of the alarm system, including receiving initial reports of alarm system activation, notifying alarm user and others when an alarm occurs, resetting or arranging for an alarm system to be reset, and performing other similar services. Alarm monitoring does not include public police department services. (Ord 17, Series 1991).

ALARM SYSTEM Any assembly of equipment, mechanical or electrical, arranged to signal the occurrence of a fire, medical emergency, robbery, burglary, or other activity requiring urgent attention to which firefighters, police or other emergency personnel are expected to respond. Alarm system includes but is not limited to equipment designed to transmit a signal or a message to a central alarm receiving station. This definition does not include alarm systems for motor vehicles. (Ord 17, Series 1991).

ALARM USER The person in control of premises wherein an alarm system has been installed.

AUTOMATIC DIALING DEVICE A device which is interconnected to a telephone line and is programmed to Transmit by voice message or code signal a selected telephone number indicating a need for emergency response.

BURGLARY ALARM An alarm system signaling an entry or attempted entry into the area protected by the system.

CHIEF OF POLICE The Chief of the City Police Department, or the Chief's designee. (Ord 17, Series 1991).

FALSE ALARM An alarm signal eliciting an emergency response where an emergency situation does not in fact exist. False Alarms shall also include an alarm user or operators failure to cancel Police Department response to an alarm that has been activated in error. (Amended Ord. 22, 2008)

INTERCONNECT	To connect an alarm system including an automatic dialing device to a telephone line, either directly or through a mechanical device that uses a telephone line to transmit a message upon the activation of the alarm system. (Ord 17, Series 1991).
MEDICAL EMERGENCY ALARM SYSTEM	An alarm system signaling an emergency requiring an response for a physically disabled person, a person with special medical conditions, or a person 60 years of age or older. (Ord 17, Series 1991).
ROBBERY ALARM SYSTEM	An alarm system signaling a robbery or attempted robbery.

3-6-3: ALARM USER'S PERMIT:

- A. Every alarm business doing business within an area for which the City Police Department provides or dispatches emergency response, shall furnish its customer with instructions that provide information to enable the customer to operate the alarm system properly and to locate and obtain service for the alarm system at any time. (Ord 17, Series 1991).
- B. Every alarm business shall be required to have and maintain a business license as required by Chapter 3-1 of this Code prior to installation of any alarm system or the provision of alarm monitoring services. (Ord 17, Series 1991).

3-6-4: ALARM SYSTEM STANDARDS: ORDER TO REMOVE SUBSTANDARD SYSTEMS

- A. Standard: The number of alarms reported by an alarm business that result in false alarms shall not be over two (2) within any three month period, or four (4) within a twelve (12) month period, per user. (Ord 17, Series 1991).
- B. If the Police Department records indicate an alarm business has violated the standards in subsection A of this section:
 - 1. The Chief of Police shall notify the affected alarm business by personal service or by certified mail of such fact and direct that the business submit a report to the Chief of Police within ten (10) days of receipt of the notice describing actions taken or to be taken to discover and eliminate the cause of the false alarms.
 - 2. If the business submits a report as directed and the Chief of Police determines if the action taken or to be taken will substantially reduce the likelihood of false alarms; the Chief shall notify the business in writing that the user need not remove its alarm system at that time, but that if two (2) or more false alarms occur within the next three (3) months the alarm business system shall remove the alarm system from the user's premises.
- C. An alarm system which sounds a false alarm that is audible from outside the premises is hereby declared to be a nuisance and may be abated as unnecessary noise. However, if an audible alarm persists and the alarm user cannot be located after a reasonable effort, the audible alarm may be summarily abated by the Chief of Police or the Chief's designee entering the premises and disconnecting the alarm and then securing the premises. The cost of such abatement shall be the obligation of the alarm user. Upon receiving notice of the costs the user shall pay them within 10 days or request a hearing as provided in Subsection E of this Section.
- D. A fee, set by Council Resolution, shall be charged to a business or residence with outside audible alarms for each false alarm over two (2) within any three month period, or four (4) within a twelve (12) month period per user. (Ord 17, Series 1991).
- E. Hearings: An alarm user may appeal any action taken by the City of Florence pursuant to this code section. To appeal, they shall file a written request for a hearing with the City Recorder within 10 days of receiving notice of such action. The hearing shall be before the City Council or its designee. The Chief of Police and the requester shall have the right to present written and oral evidence. If the City council finds that the alarm user is in violation of this chapter, that decision shall be final.

3-6-5: AUTOMATIC DIALING DEVICES:

- A. Except as allowed in Section 3-6-7 of this Chapter it is unlawful for any person to program an automatic dialing device to select, and any telephone line assigned to the City. (Ord 17, Series 1991).
- B. It is unlawful for any alarm user to fail to disconnect or reprogram an automatic dialing device upon receipt of written notice from the Chief of Police that the device is programmed in violation of this section. (Ord 17, Series 1991).

3-6-6: ALLOCATION OF REVENUES: All fees and fines collected pursuant to this Chapter shall be General Fund revenues of the City. (Ord 17, Series 1991).

3-6-7: REVOCABLE PERMIT: When the Chief of Police determines it is in the public interest to provide alarm monitoring service for an acute care hospital or for other essential public services where rapid police response is essential for public safety, the Chief may issue a revocable permit allowing the installation of an alarm monitor within the police department. Such permit may be revoked by the Chief of Police at any time upon reasonable notification. (Ord 17, Series 1991)

3-6-8 PROHIBITIONS:

- A. No person shall activate or cause to be activated a robbery alarm in a case of shoplifting, disorderly conduct, or other criminal incident other than a robbery or attempted robbery. "Robbery" is the use, attempted use, or threat of physical force upon another person in connection with the commission of a theft or other crime at the premises at which the robbery alarm is installed. The misuse of a robbery alarm shall be deemed a false alarm for the purposes of this Chapter. (Ord 17, Series 1991).
- B. Except on the occurrence of a medical emergency or other emergency for which an ambulance response is appropriate, no person shall activate or cause to be activated a medical emergency alarm. (Ord 17, Series 1991).

3-6-9: PENALTIES: Violation of any provision of this Chapter is a civil offense punishable by a fine of not more than \$500. (Ord 17, Series 1991).

Amended by:

Ord 17, Series 1991 effective October 16, 1991
Ord. 22, Series 2008 effective Jan. 1, 2009