

## CHAPTER 98: BURGLAR AND FIRE ALARMS

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#### § 98.01 PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.

All person(s) that maintain a burglar or fire alarm within the city or acting on behalf of another, shall obtain and pay for a permit in the amount and in the manner prescribed by this section on or before July 1 of each year. The Application for Registration Permit is set forth in Appendix A.

(A) *Existing alarms.* All property owners, or those acting on behalf of, who have an existing burglar or fire alarm shall within 30 days of the passage of Ord. 2002-10 apply and receive a permit for that alarm. All of the approved permits shall include the name of two designated contacts that can respond to that alarm within 20 minutes of notification. All permits shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief in a timely manner after issuance.

(B) *New installations.* All property owners shall have ten days to apply for and receive a permit after installing a new burglar or fire alarm. New installation shall be given an additional three day grace period where no alarms shall be counted. All of the approved permits shall include the name of two designated contacts that can respond to that alarm within 20 minutes of notification. All permits shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief in a timely manner after issuance.

(C) *Audible alarm systems.* Any alarm system that has an audible feature such as a horn, bell and/or recorded message shall be in compliance with the following:

- (1) All new audible alarm systems must be equipped with the capability of turning off the audible alarm after 20 minutes of audible activation.
- (2) All existing audible alarm systems must be modified and/or equipped with the capability of turning off the audible alarm after 20 minutes of audible activation if the technology exists for that system. This shall be done within 90 days after passage of Ord. 2002-10.
- (3) If the contact does not respond in the designated 20 minute time period and the alarm is still audible, it shall be deemed a nuisance and fall under the guidelines of the adopted noise ordinance as set forth in § 132.05. If the audible alarm continues after 20 minutes, then the police, firemen, or a qualified alarm technician shall take whatever action is necessary to disable the nuisance.

(D) *Permit fees.* Fees for private residence and commercial property shall be set by the City Council and are subject to revision and change by the City Council. New installation shall pay the designated permit fee at the time of issuance:

- (1) Residential: \$10
- (2) Commercial: \$20

(Ord. 2002-10, passed 6-24-02)

#### § 98.02 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

**ALARM.** A signal which is audible or visual or a combination of both that is received through the communication center of the Police Department. The alarm may be received:

- (1) Through a private alarm service company that monitors alarms for the property owner and notifies via phone line the communication center of the Police Department;
- (2) Through an automated telephone system playing a recorded message received at the communication center of the Police Department;
- (3) Audible or visual alarms that are reported to the communication center of the Police Department by way of telephone, radio, citizen or when detected by a police officer or fireman.

**FALSE ALARM.** A false alarm means any activation of an alarm that is determined by the Police Department or Fire Department not to represent the designated condition.

(Ord. 2002-10, passed 6-24-02)

#### § 98.03 RESPONSES AND REPORTS OF ALARM ACTIVATION.

(A) *Report of alarm.* The Police Department and the Fire Department shall file a report after a response to an alarm and classify the alarm as described below:

- (1) False alarms or system test without prior notification;
- (2) Valid alarm for the cause that was designated.

(B) *Retention of reports.* The Police Department and the Fire Department shall maintain reports in an active file for a period of one calendar year.

(Ord. 2002-10, passed 6-24-02)

#### § 98.04 FEES FOR FALSE ALARMS.

(A) *Fees imposed.* An alarm fee shall be imposed for reports of false alarms per calendar quarter in the amount imposed by City Council. Guidelines for notification of false alarms are described as follows:

- (1) First false alarm within a calendar quarter shall require no action by the city to the property owner;
- (2) Second false alarm within a calendar quarter shall require a written notification through regular mail notifying the property owner of the action that will be taken after the third false alarm.
- (3) Third false alarm with a calendar quarter shall require a written notification through certified letter to be sent warning the property owner of the third alarm within the period and the action that will be taken for the next and subsequent alarms with the same 90 day period.
- (4) There shall be penalties imposed for the fourth and subsequent false alarm within the 90 day period as described:
  - (a) First violation (4th alarm): \$100
  - (b) Second violation (5th alarm): \$200
  - (c) Third violation (6th and beyond): \$300 per each

(B) *Exceptions to fees imposed.* There shall be no fee imposed for certain alarm activations. Examples of these events are, but not limited to:

- (1) Acts of nature such as storms, high winds, lightning, loss of electrical power, and temporary loss of telephone service;
- (2) Alarms that are activated for testing the alarm system with prior notification to the communication center of the Police Department.
- (3) Alarms that are activated as medical life lines when the user relies on such systems for reporting a life threatening emergency;
- (4) All alarms that are determined by the officers or firemen on scene who deem the alarm activation as necessary. The officer or firemen must give explanation on the report filed.

(C) *Failure to respond.* After an alarm activation, and when the Police and/or Fire Department are at the location for a period of 20 minutes and no such response was made shall be considered as failure to respond and the following penalties shall apply:

- (1) First violation: \$100
- (2) Second violation: \$200
- (3) Third violation: \$300 per each

(Ord. 2002-10, passed 6-24-02)

#### § 98.05 SUSPENSION OF ALARM RESPONSE.

(A) *Suspension.* The Chief of Police may suspend response to alarm activations when one or more of following criteria are met:

- (1) The property owner of the alarm has six or more false alarms in any 90 day period;
- (2) There is a false statement of a material fact in the application of a permit;
- (3) The property owner failed to register the alarm site;

(4) The property owner has failed to make a timely payment of a fee imposed under this chapter.

(B) *Exceptions to suspension.*

(1) The Police and Fire Departments shall respond to alarms that are received as a duress/panic alarm and all fire alarms.

(2) Shopping centers and mall owners/management shall not be held responsible for an individual store alarm system that is independent from a system owned, operated, or leased by the owner/management of the shopping center. Each respective business operating from within the shopping center, strip malls, and/or malls shall be held solely responsible for that alarm system.

(Ord. 2002-10, passed 6-24-02)

**APPENDIX A: APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION PERMIT**

**CITY OF EASLEY ALARM SYSTEM**

**APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION PERMIT**

Return to: City of Easley PO Box 466 Easley SC, 29641

(864) 855-7900

Alarm User Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Alarm  Business  Residential  Other

Alarm Purpose:  Burglar  Duress  Fire  Other

Type of Business (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt # \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible Party for Billing: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Alarm Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Installation/Take Over/Conversion: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Contacts:

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Dangerous or Special Conditions (animals, chemicals, explosives, etc.)

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Applicants Statement

I have read and fully understand the City of Easley's Alarm Ordinance, hereby agree to notify the City of Easley if/when any information changes on this registration form. I further understand that registration of an alarm system is not intended to create a contract, duty or obligation, either expressed or implied, for a response. I further understand that Police and Fire response may be based on such factors such as priority calls, weather conditions, traffic conditions, staffing levels and any other emergency condition. I hereby acknowledge any liability and damage due to failure to respond due to a valid justification will not fall on the City of Easley, Chief of Police, or Fire Chief.

Signature of Responsible Billing Party \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Ord. 2002-10, passed 6-24-02)