

BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS GENERAL INFORMATION

The Greenacres Public Safety Department responds to approximately 2000 burglar alarms in a year and of those about 98% are false alarms where the responding law enforcement officer finds no evidence of a criminal offense or attempted criminal offense after having completed a timely investigation of the alarm site. The majority of false alarms are related to user error, malfunctioning equipment, and improperly installed or maintained equipment.

The City recently adopted regulations for Burglar Alarm Systems in an effort to reduce the number of false alarms by encouraging alarm users and alarm companies to properly use and maintain alarm systems to improve the reliability of those systems and to reduce or eliminate false alarms.

The regulations go into effect January 1, 2010, and define the duties of alarm users and alarm companies and establish fines for excessive false alarms. Below is a summary of the regulations:

Alarm users shall:

- Maintain their alarm systems by keeping all components functioning properly.
- Respond or have someone respond to the alarm system's location within 20 minutes when requested by the responding officer.
- Have a licensed alarm company inspect the alarm system after 4 false alarms in a one year period.

Alarm Installation and Monitoring Companies Shall:

- Provide written and oral instructions to each of its alarm users about proper use and operation of their alarm systems.
- Use only ANSI/SIA CP-01 listed alarm control panels equipped with a backup power supply.
- Verify every alarm signal before requesting a police dispatch.
- Notify the law enforcement agency whether the alarm user or responder is on the way to the alarm site.
- Notify the alarm user that an alarm dispatch request was made.
- Maintain alarm dispatch request records for one year from the date of the dispatch request.

False Alarm Fines:

The activation of false alarms from an alarm site within a calendar year shall be fined and billed according to the following schedule:

DESCRIPTION	FINE
Alarm resulting from weather conditions	No Charge
First False Alarm	No Charge—Warning Only
Second False Alarm	No Charge—Warning Only
Third False Alarm	\$50.00
Fourth False Alarm	\$60.00
Fifth False Alarm	\$75.00
Sixth thru Ninth False Alarms	\$100.00
Tenth and all subsequent False Alarms	\$500.00
False Alarm Caused by On-Site Alarm Company Employee	\$100.00
Monitoring Company failure to verify	\$100.00
False statement by alarm company employee	\$200.00

If you have a False Alarm:

- Officers will leave a Burglar Alarm Report indicating that a false alarm has occurred.
- Officers will leave an Alarm Information Form to be completed and mailed to the Department.
- A bill will be sent for the third and subsequent alarms within a calendar year.
- Alarm users will have 30 days to pay the fine or, submit an appeal to the Director of Public Safety within 20 days from the date of the notice of the fine.
- The full text of the regulations for Burglar Alarm Systems can be viewed on the City's website at:

www.ci.greenacres.fl.us.