

ARTICLE V. FALSE ALARMS

Sec. 2-101. Definitions.

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

Alarm system means any mechanical or electrical device which is designed or used for the detection of burglars, intruders, robbery, theft, fire, security breach, need for medical assistance, or hazard, collectively referred to as emergencies herein, within a building, structure, facility, or for alerting others to the commission of an unlawful act or hazard within a building, structure or facility, or both, and which emits a sound, light, signal, or transmits a signal or message when activated, including but not limited to direct dial telephone devices, and burglar alarms. Alarm system does not include those devices which are used only to alert or signal persons within the premises in which the devices are located of an emergency, and which do not transmit when activated an electronic, telephonic or other signal to a location other than the premises in which the devices are located.

False alarm signal means the activation of an alarm system when there is no emergency through mechanical failure, malfunction, improper design, installation or utilization, vice or defect of an alarm system, or negligence of the owner, his employees or agents, and which results in response or attempted response by public law enforcement, fire, safety, or emergency medical personnel.

Owner means any person who owns the property protected or serviced by an alarm system or upon which an alarm system is located. Owner shall also include a lessee or occupant of the property referred to above who has responsibility for the alarm system located upon such property, or who owns, leases or has installed the alarm system, or on whose request the alarm system has been installed.

(Ord. No. 1401, § 1, 11-10-03)

Sec. 2-102. Fees for false fire, fire related alarms.

The owner shall be responsible for payment of the following fees for false fire or fire related alarm signals:

- (a) First three (3) false alarm signals during any period of twelve (12) consecutive months . . . No fee
- (b) Fourth false alarm signal during any period of twelve (12) consecutive months . . . \$100.00
- (c) Fifth false alarm signal during any period of twelve (12) consecutive months . . . 200.00
- (d) Sixth or any subsequent false alarm signals during any period of twelve (12) consecutive months, each . . . 300.00

(Ord. No. 1401, § 1, 11-10-03)

Sec. 2-103. Fees for other false alarms.

The owner shall be responsible for payment of the following fees for false alarm signals other than fire or fire related false alarm signals:

- (a) First two (2) false alarm signals during any consecutive thirty-day period . . . No fee
- (b) Third false alarm signal during any consecutive thirty-day period . . . \$50.00
- (c) Fourth or any subsequent false alarm signals during any consecutive thirty-day period . . . 100.00
- (d) Eighth or any subsequent false alarm signals during any period of twelve (12) consecutive months, each . . . 200.00

(Ord. No. 1401, § 1, 11-10-03)

Sec. 2-104. Additional fee for excessive time.

In the event that public law enforcement, fire, safety or emergency medical service personnel remain at the site initiating a false alarm signal for a period of time greater than forty-five (45) minutes waiting for assistance from the owner, an additional fee in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be due for the first hour or any fraction thereof, and five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each succeeding hour.

(Ord. No. 1401, § 1, 11-10-03)

Sec. 2-105. Exemptions from article.

Alarm signals proved by the owner to be the result of malicious acts of persons not under the control of the owner, first time defect in the equipment generating the alarm signal, or of acts of God shall not be considered as false alarms.

(Ord. No. 1401, § 1, 11-10-03)

Sec. 2-106. Appeal.

Any person aggrieved by the assessment by public law enforcement, fire, safety, or emergency services personnel of a fee for false alarm signals may appeal in writing within ten (10) days of assessment of the fee to the Mayor of the City of DeRidder. The mayor, or his/her designee, shall within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the appeal hold a hearing and render a decision on the appeal.

(Ord. No. 1401, § 1, 11-10-03)