

Press Release

Revised Alarm Ordinance Goes Into Effect

Police officers responding to an alarm at a business or residence can save you from being the victim of a theft or an assault. However, the vast majority of emergency alarms to which law enforcement officers respond are false alarms. Because most of the false alarms are the result of improper maintenance or improper or careless use of an alarm system, the public and the police are subjected to needless danger when the police are called to respond to false alarms. False alarms add unnecessary risk for the responding officers and the public in general. False alarms are costly and dangerous because they divert police officers from proactive crime prevention activities. The Village of Orland Park Board of Trustees approved its revised alarm ordinance to promote the responsible use of alarm systems within the Village of Orland Park.

A false alarm is the activation of an alarm not caused by or because of a criminal act or unlawful entry. To better utilize law enforcement resources and provide more effective responses to alarm calls, the Village of Orland Park revised its existing alarm systems ordinance. These changes go into effect on January 1, 2009. The village's goal is to reduce or eliminate false alarms keeping officers available to respond to emergency calls. The Orland Park Police Department is working to ensure alarm companies are aware of the changes in the law and are notifying their customers.

The entire Alarm Systems Ordinance (Title 8 Chapter 3) is available for review and can be downloaded from our website at www.orland-park.il.us.

The alarm ordinance requires that all alarm systems within the Village of Orland Park be registered. This will enable the Orland Park Police Department to closely monitor alarm activity and identify alarm users. It also will enable the department to contact the appropriate individual in response to the alarm call. Alarm users are responsible for preventing and responding to malfunctioning alarms.

Initial alarm registration fees are currently \$5.00 until December 31, 2008 and will increase to \$25.00 beginning January 1, 2009. Businesses must renew their alarm registration every two years and residents every five years at no cost to insure that critical alarm information on file remains current.

False Alarm Penalties (calendar year):

Burglar Alarm		Hold Up Alarm	
1 to 6	no penalty.	1 to 9	\$ 50.00 per occurrence
7 to 9	\$ 50.00 per occurrence	10 to 12	\$150.00 per occurrence
10 to 12	\$150.00 per occurrence	13 to 15	\$250.00 per occurrence
13 to 15	\$250.00 per occurrence	over 15	\$750.00 per occurrence
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The alarm ordinance also gives the Orland Park Police Department the authority to place an alarm system in a "no response" status if it is determined to be a chronic offender (12+ alarms per calendar year) or for failing to pay alarm penalties.

Cooperation between the alarm user, their alarm company and the Orland Park Police Department will reduce false alarms and afford better law enforcement service for everyone.

