



FALSE ALARM REDUCTION PROGRAM SUMMARY
ALARM SYSTEMS ORDINANCE CHAPTER 9.06

False alarms cost the City of Sparks and its citizens thousands of dollars per year and can take police officers away from actual emergencies. To prevent unnecessary emergency response to false alarms, the Alarm Ordinance was adopted to reduce the number of false alarms and encourage alarm users to maintain the mechanical reliability of and to properly use their alarm equipment.

The City of Sparks, Nevada approved an alarm ordinance that became effective on January 1, 2007. Ordinance Chapter 9.06, established requirements for business and residential monitored burglar and fire alarm systems.

Registration Fee

- ▶ Commercial and Residential - \$25
- ▶ Seniors - \$10 (Residential only) (Proof may be required)
 - Requirements – Must be 60 years old
 - Is the owner of the residence or resides at this location as the principal tenant
 - Occupies the residence as his or her primary residence
- ▶ Operating a non-registered monitored alarm system will be subject to a fee of \$100 for each false alarm in addition to any other fee(s).

False Alarm Service Fees

Definition of a false alarm: An alarm dispatch request to the Police Department which results in the responding officer finding no evidence of a criminal offense or attempted criminal offense after completing an investigation of the alarm site.

False Alarm Fees:

- False burglar alarm – \$75
- False robbery/panic alarm – \$200

Additional Information

- All registration fees, renewal registration fees, service fees or fines assessed under this ordinance are due within thirty (30) days of written notice unless otherwise noted.
- Do not call 9-1-1 or the Sparks Police Department to cancel your alarm. Only your monitoring center can cancel the alarm dispatch request once made.
- Information on your right to appeal shall be provided with each notice of a false alarm.
- Cancellation of a burglar alarm response prior to an officer arriving at the alarm site will not count as a false alarm.

For Information Contact:

ATB Services

1-877-356-7601

Fax 719-634-6325

www.atbservices.com/Sparks



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What Can You Do To Prevent False Alarms?

- Instruct all alarm users on the proper operation of your alarm system.
- Secure all windows and doors before activation.
- Keep pets, balloons, fans, heaters, plants, curtains, seasonal decorations, etc. away from motion sensor areas.
- Know and rehearse the process to cancel an accidental alarm.
- Notify your alarm company of any changes in responsible parties or problems with your system immediately.
- Have your alarm system checked annually by your alarm company.
- Battery backup should be checked annually or after a storm-related false alarm.

Some Common Problems That Cause False Alarms:

- Weak alarm system backup batteries
- Open, unlocked, or loose fitting doors and windows
- Helium-filled balloons
- Wandering pets
- Improper application or installation of motion detectors
- Failure to properly train other users

Sparks has contracted with Alarm Tracking and Billing Services (ATB Services) of Colorado Springs, Colorado to administer the False Alarm Reduction Program.

ATB Services Duties

ATB Services to track and bill for an estimated 1,325 yearly false alarms; coordinate with approximately 87 alarm companies and monitoring centers in and out of state; process 4,377 annual permits; provide all the computer software and upgrades required; create online sites for Police Department officials, alarm users and alarm companies to review their respective alarm information; record remittances; assist with appeal filing; provide for online payments; accommodate alarm users with toll-free customer service support; and develop an educational online alarm school to help reduce the number of false alarms that require law enforcement response.

When you purchase a private security alarm system or contract to have a private security system monitored by a security alarm business licensed by the city you are entering into a private contract with that business only. Your security alarm purchase and/or monitoring contract is not a contract with the City of Sparks, its Police Department or with any other law enforcement agency.

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