FALSE ALARM REDUCTION PROGRAM SUMMARY
ALARM SYSTEMS ORDINANCE 1420, CHAPTER 54

False alarms cost Washoe County and its citizens thousands of dollars per year and can take deputies away from actual emergencies. To prevent unnecessary emergency response to false alarms, an ordinance was adopted and amended to encourage all alarm users to maintain the mechanical reliability of and to properly use their alarm equipment.

On September 22, 2009 Washoe County Commissioners approved a revised alarm ordinance, which became effective October 13, 2009. The Ordinance was again reviewed and modified to its current format August 10, 2010. Chapter 54 was adopted and established business and residential alarm code requirements within unincorporated Washoe County.

Annual Permit Fee

- Commercial and Residential -$24 – The renewal registration fee may be waived for alarm sites that did not record a false alarm during the one year registration period and if no changes to alarm user registration information per 54.050
- Seniors - $12(65 +) (Residential only)

  Requirements – Proof of age, property owner or lessee, alarm contract in your name

False Alarm Service Fees

- A false alarm is an alarm dispatch request to the Sheriff's Office which results in the responding deputy finding no evidence of a criminal offense or attempted criminal offense after completing an investigation of the alarm site.
- First false burglar alarms - $100 each
- Second false burglar alarm - $125
- Third false burglar alarm - $150
- Fourth false burglar alarm - $175
- Fifth or more false burglar alarm - $200 each
- Each False Robbery or Panic Alarm - $200
- An inspection of an alarm system is required after three false alarms in a one-year permit period
- Cancellation of a burglar alarm response prior to a deputy arriving at the alarm site will not count as a false alarm and no service fee will be assessed.
- Do not call 9-1-1 to cancel your alarm, only your monitoring center can cancel the alarm dispatch request once made.
- Your right to appeal shall be provided if you are assessed a fee for which you believe an exception should be made.

There is an additional $200.00 fee if no permit fee has been obtained and a response was made.

What Can You Do To Prevent False Alarms?

- Instruct all alarm users on the proper operation of your alarm system
- Secure all windows & 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 system checked annually by your alarm company
- Battery backup should be checked annually or after a storm related false alarm

Washoe County has contracted with Alarm Tracking and Billing Services of Colorado Springs, Colorado to administer the false alarm reduction program. It would be cost prohibitive for Washoe County to build, operate, and maintain a false alarm tracking and billing system. Therefore, Washoe County has contracted with this firm, which has expertise in administering false alarm reduction programs. All owners of alarm systems will receive a registration notice on behalf of the County from Alarm Tracking and Billing Services.

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 county, you are entering into a private contract with that business only. Your security alarm purchase and/or monitoring contract is not a contract with Washoe County, its Sheriff's Office or with any other law enforcement agency.

For Information Contact:
Alarm Tracking and Billing Services
1-866-950-9907
Fax 719-634-6325
www.atbservices.com/washoecounty