

ARTICLE III. ALARM SYSTEMS*

*State law references: Alarm Industry Licensing Act, R.S. 40:1662.1 et seq.

Sec. 42-191. 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 business means the business of any individual, partnership, corporation, or other entity engaged in selling, leasing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving or installing any alarm system or in causing any alarm system to be sold, leased, maintained, serviced, repaired, altered, replaced, moved or installed in or on any building, structure or facility. An alarm business shall have an occupational license issued by the city.

Alarm systems means any assembly of equipment, mechanical or electrical, arranged to signal the occurrence of an illegal entry or other illegal activity requiring urgent attention and to which the police department is expected to respond, but does not include alarms installed on vehicles, unless such vehicle is permanently located at a site of fire alarms.

Alarm user means the person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind in control of any building, structure or facility or portion thereof wherein no alarm system is maintained.

Automatic telephone dialing alarm system means the automatic dialing device or an automatic telephone dialing alarm system and shall include any system which, upon being activated, automatically transmits by telephone line to the city police department, a recorded message.

False alarm means an alarm signal eliciting a response by police when an investigation indicated no criminal activity occurred to cause the alarm signal.

Public agencies mean agencies of the federal government and agencies of the state government, but does not apply to quasi-public agencies and organizations.

(Code 1980, § 23-36)

Cross references: Definitions generally, § 1-2.

Sec. 42-192. Operating requirements.

(a) The alarm mechanism shall be adjusted to suppress false indications due to:

- (1) Transient pressure changes in water pipes;
- (2) Flashes of light;
- (3) Wind noise caused by rattling or vibration of windows or doors;
- (4) Vehicular noise;
- (5) Electrical power fluctuations;
- (6) Other forces unrelated to an actual emergency.

(b) An authorized person shall be available to respond and shall arrive at the structure where an alarm has been activated, within 30 minutes, when requested to do so by the police department.

(c) Audible alarms shall be adjusted so that the alarm will sound for no longer than 30 minutes, and must be reset before sounding again.

(Code 1980, § 23-37)

Sec. 42-193. False alarms.

(a) Whenever an alarm is activated in the city, thereby requiring an emergency response to the location by the police department, and the police department does respond, a police officer on the scene of the activated alarm system shall inspect the area protected by the system and shall determine whether the alarm was false as defined in section 42-191. However, the alarm user shall not be held accountable for a false alarm caused by:

- (1) Natural or manmade catastrophe;
- (2) Vandalism;
- (3) Telephone line outage.

The alarm user shall have the burden of proving such causes.

(b) If the police officer at the scene of the activated alarm system determines the alarm to be false, such officer shall make a report of the false alarm, and if the alarm user is to be held accountable, a notification shall be mailed or delivered to the alarm user, at the address of such alarm system installation location, advising the alarm user of the false alarm. The determination of the police officer may be appealed to the police chief or his designee. The decision of the police chief or his designee shall be the final administrative decision. However, nothing contained in this subsection shall prevent an alarm user from pursuing any matter that is the subject of this article in any of the several courts of this state.

(c) The police chief or his designee, shall have the right to inspect any alarm system on the premises to which a response has been made, and he may cause an inspection of such system to be made at any reasonable time thereafter to determine whether it is being used in conformity with the terms of this article.

(Code 1980, § 23-38)

Sec. 42-194. False alarm response fee.

Any person having a burglar, holdup, or any type of intrusion alarm, shall be charged a fee of \$25.00 for the third alarm responded to by the city police department within a calendar year and \$25.00 for each false alarm so responded to thereafter within a calendar year.

(Code 1980, § 23-2)