

Chapter 3.5 ALARMS*

***Editor's note:** Ord. No. 9174, adopted October 23, 1990, amended the Code by adding a new Ch. 6.5. In order to maintain Code format and follow the alphanumeric sequence, the aforesaid has been redesignated as Ch. 3.5.

Sec. 3.5-1. Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the respective meanings ascribed to them in this section, except in those instances where the context indicates a different meaning:

Alarm system. Any assembly of equipment or devices, mechanical or electrical, which is designed, arranged or used for the detection of a hazardous condition or an unauthorized entry or attempted entry into a building, structure or facility, or for alerting persons of a hazardous condition, unauthorized entry or the commission of an unlawful act to, on or within a building, structure or facility and which emits a sound or flashing light, or transmits a signal or message when activated, to which the police department and/or fire department of the City of Monroe, Louisiana, is expected to respond, provided however that this definition shall not include an alarm system installed in a vehicle.

Alarm user. Any person in control of any building, structure or facility or to a portion thereof wherein an alarm system is maintained.

City. The City of Monroe, Louisiana.

City council. The city council of the City of Monroe, Louisiana.

False alarm. Any sound or flashing light, signal or message which elicits a response from the police department and/or fire department of the City of Monroe, Louisiana, which an investigation indicates no hazardous condition, unauthorized entry or the commission of an unlawful act to, on or within a building, structure or facility or which it is otherwise determined that a situation requiring a response from the police and/or fire department did not in fact exist.

Fire department. The fire department of the City of Monroe, Louisiana.

Police department. The police department of the City of Monroe, Louisiana.

(Ord. No. 9174, 10-23-90)

Sec. 3.5-2. Alarm system operating requirements.

- (a) An alarm system shall be adjusted to suppress false indications due to:
- (1) Transient changes in water pipe pressure;
 - (2) Flashes of light;
 - (3) Wind noise caused by rattling or vibration of windows, doors or walls;
 - (4) Vehicular noise;
 - (5) Electrical power fluctuations;
 - (6) Other forces or factors unrelated to an actual emergency.

(b) All alarm users shall provide the police and fire departments with the name, telephone number and address of at least two (2) authorized persons, who shall be available to respond and who shall arrive at the building, structure or facility where an alarm has been activated within thirty (30) minutes when requested to do so by the police or fire department. All alarm users shall promptly notify the police and fire departments of any change in the designation or manner of contacting such persons.

All alarm users shall provide the police department and fire department with a local address at which to mail or deliver any notifications or reports provided for herein. All alarm users shall promptly notify the police and fire departments of any change of such address.

(c) Audible alarms shall be adjusted so that the alarm will not sound longer than thirty (30) minutes, and must be reset before sounding again.

(d) Failure to comply with the provisions of this section may be punishable by a fine not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or by imprisonment for not more than ten (10) days or both at the discretion of the court.

(Ord. No. 9174, 10-23-90)

Sec. 3.5-3. False alarms.

(a) Whenever an alarm system is activated in the city, thereby requiring an emergency response to the location from the police department and/or fire department, the senior official of the police or fire department on the scene of the activated alarm who has overall command of the situation shall inspect the area protected by the alarm system and shall determine whether the alarm was a false alarm.

(b) If said senior official at the scene of the activated alarm system determines that the alarm is a false alarm, he shall make a report of the false alarm, which report shall be filed in the records of both the police department and fire department and a notification of the false alarm shall be mailed or delivered to the alarm user at the address provided for in section 3.5-2(b).

(c) Any alarm user may appeal the determination of a false alarm to the chief of the department of the senior official making the report. Such appeal must be made within fifteen (15) days of the delivery or mailing of the notification provided for in section 3.5-3(b).

(d) An alarm user may appeal the decision of the chief to the city council by written request delivered to the clerk of the city council. Such appeal shall be made within fifteen (15) days of the decision of the chief. Upon receipt of such written request, the clerk of the city council shall set a hearing at the next available regular council meeting, which shall not be less than fifteen (15) days nor more than thirty (30) days from the receipt of the appeal request. The clerk of the city council shall also provide written notice, setting forth the date and time of the appeal hearing, to the alarm user and the respective chief at least ten (10) days prior to the said hearing.

(e) Nothing contained herein shall prevent any alarm user from appealing the decision of the city council to any court of competent jurisdiction.

(Ord. No. 9174, 10-23-90)

Sec. 3.5-4. Assistance and compliance with officials on site.

All persons in, on, about or who respond by coming to the site of an alarm activation shall obey all reasonable requests for assistance by the police and/or fire department personnel, including but not limited to identify themselves, stating their purpose at the site, or leaving the premises on request.

Such persons shall also promptly notify police and/or fire personnel of any and all known hazards to said personnel which exist within the building, structure, facility or area.

(Ord. No. 9174, 10-23-90)

Sec. 3.5-5. Fees for false alarms.

(a) The alarm user shall be charged a fee for false alarms pursuant to the following schedule:

(1) One (1) through three (3): No charge

(a warning shall be included in the notification),

(2) Four (4) to six (6): \$25.00 each occurrence,

(3) Six (6) to twenty-four (24): \$50.00 each occurrence,

(4) Twenty-five (25) or more: \$200.00 each occurrence.

(b) Alarms shall be counted for the twelve-month period previous to the date of any false alarm.

(Ord. No. 9174, 10-23-90)

Sec. 3.5-6. Exceptions.

An alarm user shall not be held accountable for a false alarm caused by:

(1) Natural or man-made catastrophe;

(2) Vandalism;

(3) Telephone line outage;

(4) Electrical line outage;

(5) Severe weather conditions.

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

(Ord. No. 9174, 10-23-90)