

ARTICLE 30. FALSE ALARMS

Section 30.1 - Definitions

For the purpose of this article, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

Alarm System - Any assembly of equipment and/or devices that are designed to be activated either manually or automatically for the purpose of drawing attention to the presence of a fire or hazard, or situation, criminal or otherwise, to which the police and/or fire departments are expected to respond.

Alarm User - Any person or business on whose premises an alarm system is installed and maintained within the Town of Sutton, except for alarm systems that are installed in or on motor vehicles.

False Alarm - The activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation or negligence of the user of the alarm system or his/her employees or agents; and any signal or communication transmitted to the Police and/or Fire Departments requesting, requiring or resulting in a response from the Police and/or Fire Departments when, in fact, there has been no fire or hazard, or unauthorized entry or intrusion into the premises and there has been no attempted robbery or burglary at the premises. Excluded from this definition shall be the activation of an alarm system by power outages, utility companies or other outside sources, hurricanes, severe storms and similar conditions.

Section 30.2 – False Alarms

(1) After the Police or Fire Departments have recorded three (3) separate false alarms within the calendar year, the alarm user shall be assessed the following fees:

- (a) Twenty-five dollars (\$25) for the fourth false alarm.
- (b) Fifty dollars (\$50) for the fifth and subsequent false alarms.

(2) Failure to pay the fee within the prescribed time period will result in court action for violation of a town bylaw or a municipal charges lien being placed on the real property pursuant to M.G.L. C. 40, § 58, in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds until the fee is paid.

Section 30.3 – Audible Alarm

All alarm systems that emit an audible signal shall be equipped with a device for limiting the length of the audible signal to ten (10) minutes. Any user of an alarm system that either does not have such a device or has a malfunction that allows the audible signal to continue for more than ten (10) minutes shall be assessed a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.). Failure to pay such fee within the prescribed time will result in either court action for violation of a town bylaw or the placement of a municipal charges lien on the real

property pursuant to M.G.L. C. 40, § 58, in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds until the fee is paid.

Section 30.4 - Exemptions

- (1) All federal, state and municipal buildings and property shall be exempt from the provisions of this article.
- (2) No provision of this article shall be construed to place an obligation on the Police or Fire Departments to respond to an alarm.

Adopted: October 18, 1999