

## CHAPTER 14: ALARM SYSTEMS

---

### Section

- 4-14.01 Definitions
- 4-14.02 Alarm company requirements
- 4-14.03 Alarm use permit and issuance
- 4-14.04 Revocation and reissuance of permits
- 4-14.05 False alarm service charges
- 4-14.06 Non-response notice
- 4-14.07 Backup power supply
- 4-14.08 Impermissible systems and uses
- 4-14.09 Appeals
- 4-14.10 Penalty

### § 4-14.01 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

**ALARM AGENT.** An employee licensed by the state and employed by or acting in behalf of an alarm company.

**ALARM COMPANY.** A business, licensed by the state, which sells and installs or repairs alarm systems and components.

**ALARM SYSTEM.** A functionally-related group of electrical or mechanical components that serve to detect, warn or alert by means of sound or signal.

**FALSE ALARM.** An activation of an alarm system which is designed to detect and/or report a particular type of event when in fact that particular type of event has not occurred nor is there evidence that it occurred.

**MONITORED ALARM SYSTEM.** An alarm system which signals a monitoring agency of a detection or warning.

('66 Code, § 4-14.01) (Ord. 759-C-S, passed 11-9-89)

### § 4-14.02 ALARM COMPANY REQUIREMENTS.

(A) Each alarm company conducting business within the city limits shall file a copy of its California Consumer Affairs Alarm Operator's License with the Police Department.

(B) Each alarm company conducting business in the city shall possess a current city business license as required by this code.

(C) All alarm agents shall possess a valid California Consumer Affairs Alarm Agency Registration Card while performing any alarm work in the city. The registration card shall be displayed upon demand to any city employee, representative or person being served or solicited.

('66 Code, § 4-14.02) (Ord. 759-C-S, passed 11-9-89) Penalty, see § 4-14.10

#### **§ 4-14.03 ALARM USE PERMIT AND ISSUANCE.**

(A) (1) No person shall install or use an alarm system on any premises within the city limits until they have obtained an alarm use permit from the Police Department.

(2) Alarm systems which are not designed to summon public and/or the Police Department's attention and which are privately monitored do not require an alarm use permit. Nor does this chapter apply to public agencies.

(B) Applicants for an alarm use permit shall provide the following information on a form provided by the Police Department:

(1) The name, address and telephone number of the applicant.

(2) The location (address and business name if applicable) where the alarm system is to be installed/used.

(3) The name, address and telephone number of the alarm company installing the alarm system.

(4) A description of the type of alarm system intended for installation/use.

(5) The name and telephone number of at least two emergency response contacts capable of responding within 30 minutes to the alarm location if requested. The alarm use permittee shall contact the Police Department Administrative Bureau to update emergency responders information on the business day, before changing emergency responders.

(C) Upon receipt of an application for an alarm use permit, the Police Department shall issue a permit for the designated premises, unless the Police Department finds that cause exists to deny that permit. Cause to deny the permit shall include:

(1) Installation of alarm systems which are impermissible as defined in § 4-14.08 of this chapter.

(2) Failure of the applicant to pay the alarm permit fee described below in division (E).

(D) In the event an alarm use permit is denied, the Commander of the Police Department Support Services Division, or his/her designee, shall set forth the justification in writing.

(E) The alarm use permittee shall pay an alarm use permit issuance fee in an amount to be determined by resolution.

('66 Code, § 4-14.03) (Ord. 759-C-S, passed 11-9-89) Penalty, see § 4-14.10

#### **§ 4-14.04 REVOCATION AND REISSUANCE OF PERMITS.**

(A) If cause exists, an alarm use permit may be revoked. Cause for revocation shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Failure to take corrective measures to prevent false alarms in excess of four in any 30 consecutive day period, or in excess of 10 in any 180 consecutive day period.

(2) Failure to pay service charges resulting from excessive false alarms as required in § 4-14.05 of this chapter.

(B) Notice of alarm use permit revocation shall be made by the Chief of Police to the permittee by certified mail.

(C) Use of an alarm system after permit revocation notification has been issued is unlawful and is punishable by a fine of up to \$500 for each documented occurrence.

(D) A revoked permit may be reissued by the Police Department if the former permittee can show action has been taken to correct the cause which resulted in the revocation of the original alarm use permit. Reissuance of an alarm use permit shall be accomplished by the same procedure detailed in § 4-14.03 of this chapter.

('66 Code, § 4-14.04) (Ord. 759-C-S, passed 11-9-89)

#### **§ 4-14.05 FALSE ALARM SERVICE CHARGES.**

(A) A service charge in an amount to be determined by resolution shall be imposed on any city alarm system permittee for each false alarm response made by the Police Department. Payment shall be due within 15 days of the billing date.

(B) Multiple false alarms occurring in any 24 hour period shall be charged as one to furnish time for corrective action by the

permittee.

(C) A false alarm shall not be charged against a permittee if it can be determined that the alarm was activated by a telephone line problem or a utility power outage lasting more than four hours. The responsibility for providing evidence of this type of problem lies with the permittee.

(D) The Police Department shall advise the City Finance Department of all applicable charges. The charges shall be billed to the responsible city alarm use permittee by the Finance Department and shall be due within 15 days of the billing date.

('66 Code, § 4-14.05) (Ord. 759-C-S, passed 11-9-89; Am. Ord. 1012-C-S, passed 1-13-04)

#### **§ 4-14.06 NON-RESPONSE NOTICE.**

(A) The Chief of Police may determine that a permittee's alarm warrants a "non-response" by emergency units on the basis of one of the following conditions:

- (1) The alarm system is not properly main-tained;
- (2) Unresolved false alarm problems;
- (3) The permittee has failed or refused to respond to the location of an alarm upon police request;
- (4) The alarm system has been activated for reasons other than probable burglary, intrusion, or robbery;
- (5) The permittee of the alarm system has failed to comply with any provision of this chapter.

(B) Emergency units will not respond to any alarm system in a "non-response" status.

('66 Code, § 4-14.06) (Ord. 759-C-S, passed 11-9-89)

#### **§ 4-14.07 BACKUP POWER SUPPLY.**

(A) All alarm systems shall be supplied with an uninterruptable power supply in a manner that failure or interruption of normal electrical service shall not activate the alarm system.

(B) The backup power supply shall be capable of at least four hours of operation.

(C) All alarm systems installed prior to the enactment of the ordinance codified in this chapter shall be required to comply with this section within three months of the date the ordinance becomes effective.

('66 Code, § 4-14.07) (Ord. 759-C-S, passed 11-9-89) Penalty, see § 4-14.10

#### **§ 4-14.08 IMPERMISSIBLE SYSTEMS AND USES.**

(A) No person shall operate or use any alarm that emits a sound similar to that of an emergency vehicle, siren, or civil defense warning system.

(B) No person shall use or operate any alarm system that emits an exterior audible sound when such emission does not automatically cease within 15 minutes.

(C) No person shall operate or use a burglar alarm system for any other purpose than detecting and reporting an unauthorized entry upon the property protected by the system, or operate or use a robbery alarm for any other purpose than reporting a robbery.

('66 Code, § 4-14.08) (Ord. 759-C-S, passed 11-9-89) Penalty, see § 4-14.10

#### **§ 4-14.09 APPEALS.**

Any person denied an alarm use permit, whose alarm use permit has been revoked, denied an alarm use permit reissuance, who has

received an alarm service charge assessment, or who has been placed on a "non-response" list may appeal the action in writing to the City Administrative Board of Appeals within 30 days of such action. The matter shall then be determined in the manner specified in § 1-4.03 of this code.

('66 Code, § 4-14.09) (Ord. 759-C-S, passed 11-9-89)

#### **§ 4-14.10 PENALTY.**

(A) Violations of this chapter are deemed infractions and may be punishable in accordance with §§ 1-2.01 et seq.

(B) The city may withhold the annual business license of any business until complete payment of false alarm service charges are made.

('66 Code, § 4-14.10) (Ord. 759-C-S, passed 11-9-89)