

THE RESIDENTIAL BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEM

A residential burglar alarm system should be simple to operate and designed to fit in with lifestyle of the family it is protecting. Otherwise, the alarm system will cause false alarms and the family will soon stop using it.

COMMERCIAL BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS

Burglary protection for commercial risks should consist of a combination of physical security and burglar alarm protection. The physical security is to keep the burglar out, and the burglar alarm protection is to detect the intrusion in the event the physical system fails.

The Most Common Causes of False Alarms

- System Users
- Physical Changes to Facility
- Displays and Decorations
- Malfunctioning Equipment
- Heat Vents
- Air Conditioning Vents
- Fans (Ceiling and Table)
- Small Animals

YOUR WAUWATOSA POLICE OFFICERS ARE COUNTING ON YOU!

PREVENT FALSE ALARMS BY

1. Before leaving, check that all exterior doors are closed and locked.
2. Before leaving, check that all motion sensor areas are clear of moving signs, displays, reflective/helium balloons, etc.
3. Know how to cancel a false alarm quickly.
4. All personnel should be periodically trained in proper alarm operating procedures and false alarm prevention.
5. Report any arming or disarming problems to your alarm company *immediately*.

Note: Alarm fees not paid by November 1st will be placed on the property tax bill.

The preceding information was prepared to assist the citizens of the City of Wauwatosa who depend on alarm systems for safety and peace of mind.

If you have any questions regarding your alarm, please contact your alarm company or the Wauwatosa Police Department at 414-471-8430.

FALSE ALARM PREVENTION TIPS & FEE SCHEDULE



**A COMMUNITY SERVICE
INFORMATION BULLETIN
PREPARED & PRESENTED
BY THE
WAUWATOSA POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

You Can Help!

A large amount of false alarms are caused by human error.

Help Stop False Alarms

“False alarm means a signal from an alarm system resulting in a response by the police department when an emergency situation did not exist.”

FALSE ALARM FEES

For various reasons, false alarms for alarm systems frequently occur. Each false alarm requires response by public safety personnel, involves unnecessary expense to the city, increases the risk of injury to persons or damage to property, and dilutes the overall public safety protection to the city. Such false alarms constitute a public nuisance and must be abated. Persons connected to an alarm system in accordance with Ordinance 7.08.005 shall:

- Pay an annual \$20.00 permit fee to the city. A \$50.00 late fee will be charged if permits are not paid by the end of the year.
- Provide current key holder information.
- Pay to the city a charge for false alarms responded by the police according to the following schedule for each calendar year for each premise connected:

FALSE ALARMS

FEES

1	NO CHARGE
2 - 4	\$50.00 Each
5 - 8	\$90.00 Each
9 - 10	\$300.00 Each
11 +	\$400.00 Each

Failure to register your alarm system without a permit is a violation of 7.08.005 of the Municipal Code, and you may be cited and fined.

REMEMBER: Storms and Bad Weather Should Not Activate Your Alarm, and are Subject to a Response Fee.

Make sure to keep your key holder information current.

Use These Helpful Tips To ELIMINATE FALSE ALARMS

- Make sure all users have proper knowledge of codes and operation of the alarm. Know how to disarm the alarm.

- If the system was installed for one type of facility and remodeling occurs, the alarm should be inspected for suitability to the changes that have been made.
- Carefully arrange all decorations, banners and displays. Floating balloons can interfere with motion detectors and activate alarms.
- Replace main battery to meet manufacturers specifications.
- Faulty Equipment - If you can't identify the cause of the activation - contact your alarm company to have your motion detectors checked along with basic equipment.
- Heat rises and can cause enough motion to activate alarms as can air conditioning currents.
- Small animals (bird, cats, rodents, etc.) are easily detected by motion detectors. Use caution against their entering the premises.
- Schedule routine system maintenance and checks by the alarm company.
- Alarmed areas must be protected from access. Security systems must not be the only barrier - all alarmed doors should have secure locks.