

## THE RESIDENTIAL BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEM

A residential burglar alarm system should be simple to operate and designed to fit the lifestyle of the family and facility it is protecting. Otherwise, the alarm system will cause false alarms and become unreliable.

## COMMERCIAL BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS

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

## The Most Common Causes of False Alarms:

- Users of System not Properly Trained
- 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 TO:

### **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 before triggering a police response. Many systems have a short time period to cancel an alarm.
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 October 31st of each year 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 equipment, please contact your alarm company. Questions about your alarm account, please contact the Wauwatosa Police Department at 414-471-8430.

## **FALSE ALARM PREVENTION TIPS ...**



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

# You Can Help!

## A large number of false alarms are caused by human error.

### Help Stop False Alarms

“False alarm is a signal from an alarm system that results in a response by the police department when an emergency situation does not exist.”

## FALSE ALARM FEES

For various reasons, false alarms from 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/property connected to an alarm system in accordance with Ordinance 7.08.005 shall:

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	FEE
Annual Registration Fee	\$25.00
1st	NO CHARGE
2nd	\$75.00
3rd	\$75.00
4th	\$150.00
5th	\$150.00
6th	\$150.00
7th	\$150.00
8th and each subsequent	\$450.00
false alarm	

**REMEMBER: Storms and bad weather should not activate your alarm system. Each occurrence will be charged as a false alarm.**

### *Use These Helpful Tips To ELIMINATE FALSE ALARMS*

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

- 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 system checked along with other basic equipment.
- Heat rises and can cause enough motion to activate alarms. Air conditioning currents can do the same.
- Small animals (bird, cats, rodents, etc.) are easily detected by motion detectors.
- Schedule routine system maintenance with your alarm company.
- Alarmed areas must be protected from access. Security systems must not be the only barrier - all alarmed doors should have secure locks.