

**TITLE 20****MISCELLANEOUS****CHAPTER****1. EMERGENCY ALARM DEVICES.****CHAPTER 1****EMERGENCY ALARM DEVICES****SECTION**

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**20-101. False alarm.** "False alarm" means an alarm signal eliciting a response by the Police and/or Fire Department when a situation requiring a response by the Police and/or Fire Department does not in fact exist; but in this definition does not include an alarm signal caused by unusually violent conditions of nature nor does it include other extraordinary circumstances not reasonably subject to control by the alarm user. (Ord. #2012-002, Feb. 2012)

**20-102. False alarm activations.**

(1) Whenever an alarm is activated in the City, thereby requiring an emergency response to the location by Police and/or Fire personnel, a Police and/or Fire Officer on the scene of the activated alarm shall determine whether the emergency response was in fact required as indicated by the alarm system or whether in some way the alarm system malfunctioned and thereby activated a false alarm.

(2) If the Police or Fire Officer at the scene of the activated alarm system determined the alarm to be false and no emergency response was necessary, then said Officer shall submit a report of the false alarm to the City Administrator, or his designee, and the respective Chief. A written notification of emergency response and determination of the response shall be mailed or delivered to the alarm user at the address of location where alarm was activated. The addressee upon receipt of the notification shall be entitled to a hearing before the City Administrator or his designee and addressee desiring a hearing and shall request said hearing within ten (10) days of the date of notification.

(3) The Police or Fire Official shall have the right to inspect any alarm system on the premises to which response has been made and he may cause inspection of such system to be made at any reasonable time thereafter to determine whether it is in conformity with this chapter.

(4) It shall be a violation of this chapter to intentionally cause a false alarm, and any person who intentionally causes a false alarm shall be subject to the penalty provisions contained herein.

(5) There shall be a fourteen (14) day grace period provided to the alarm user during the initial installation of the alarm system. For fourteen (14) days after the alarm has been installed, the fees provided for in § 20-103 will not apply.

(6) Any alarm business testing or servicing any alarm system shall notify the Police and/or Fire Departments and instruct said Departments of the location and time of said testing or servicing. The fees provided for in § 20-103 will not apply to the alarm user if prior notice of testing or servicing has been made to the respective Departments as outlined in this section. (Ord. #2012-002, Feb. 2012, modified)

**20-103. Fee assessment for false alarms.** More than three (3) false alarms of any type of defined alarm system that occur within any six (6) month period (January -- June or July -- December) is excessive and constitutes a public nuisance. The activation of four (4) or more false alarms within either of the above defined six (6) month periods will result in penalties of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each such false alarm, which shall be due and owing the City of Sevierville within ten (10) days from the date of false alarm. (Ord. #2012-002, Feb. 2012)

**20-104. Disconnection.** In the event that an alarm system emitting an audible, visual, or other similar response shall fail to be deactivated within thirty (30) minutes, the City shall have the right to take such action as may be necessary in order to disconnect any such alarm. (Ord. #2012-002, Feb. 2012, modified)

**20-105. Penalty for offenses.** Any person failing to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a violation, and upon conviction in City Court, shall be subject to a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). Each occurrence shall constitute a separate offense. (Ord. #2012-002, Feb. 2012)

**20-106. Automatic telephone dialing alarm systems prohibited.** Use of automatic telephone dialing systems for the purpose of directly requesting emergency service from the Fire and/or Police Departments is prohibited. (Ord. #2012-002, Feb. 2012)

**20-107. Severability of provisions.** Should any of the provisions of this chapter be determined to be invalid, the remaining provisions will not be affected by such invalidity. (Ord. #2012-002, Feb. 2012)

