



**Town of Farnington  
Ordinance \_\_\_-99**

**Fire Alarm Systems**

**Permit Required.** An annual permit is required for each fire alarm system on premises within the town. The purpose of the permit is to obtain information about the system, who is responsible for the system and maintain contact information for when there is trouble with the system.

The permit application will contain information on the system including manufacturer, installation date, date last serviced, recommended service interval by manufacturer, alarm respondent list including name, address, phone numbers including work, home, cell, pager and e-mail address of each listed respondent, the name of the person or corporate officer responsible for the facility being alarmed including that persons address, phone numbers including work, home, cell, pager and e-mail address. If the alarm is monitored remotely, the name address and phone numbers of the facility monitoring the alarm. As well as any other information deemed necessary by the Fire Chief.

Every location in the town that has a fire alarm will be equipped with a key vault attached to the alarmed structure. Stored inside the key vault will be keys to gain entry to the alarmed structure and any locked rooms or areas inside the structure as well as a scale map of the structure identifying hazards, utility service locations and any other information needed in an emergency. The Fire Department will specify the key vault to be installed, however it is the owner of the alarmed structure who is responsible for the vaults cost and installation.

All alarm systems operated in the Town will be operated pursuant to Wisconsin Administrative Code Com 14 which is incorporated into this ordinance by reference.

It is not the intention of this ordinance to include smoke detectors installed in private residences under this ordinance. However, if a private residence is equipped with a fire alarm system which is monitored remotely or directly dials the La Crosse Emergency Dispatch Center reporting an alarm, they are included under this ordinance.

There shall be a Ten Dollars (\$10.00) permit fee. Permits expire December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year issued. Renewal application shall be made no later the last week of November of each year for approval at the Town Board's December meeting. Applications are available from the Town Clerk or the Fire Department. Penalty for failure to obtain a permit is Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per day

**Testing**

No alarm business or alarm system designed to transmit emergency messages to the La Crosse Emergency Dispatch Center shall be tested or demonstrated without prior notification and approval of the La Crosse Emergency Dispatch Center dispatcher.

No alarm system relayed through intermediate services to the La Crosse Emergency Dispatch Center will be tested to determine the Fire Department's response without first notifying the appropriate authority. However the Fire Department may inspect or test on-site alarm systems authorized under this ordinance.

Alarm systems shall be in compliance with all pertinent response policies of the Fire Department.

**Fee for Answering Alarms.**

Generally. Each false alarm requires response of public safety personnel, involve unnecessary expense to the Town, increases the risk of injury to persons or damage to property and dilutes the overall public safety protection to the Town. Such false alarms constitute a public nuisance and must be abated.

**Intentional.** No person shall intentionally cause the activation of a fire alarm device knowing that no fire or other emergency exists.

**Written Report.** After each false alarm, the person identified in the Alarm Permit Application, will file a written report with the Fire Department within forty eight (48) hours describing the results of the inspection of the system, repairs that have been made to the system and repairs scheduled to be made. A follow up written report will be filed when all repairs have been made. Penalty for failure to file the initial written report will be Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per day from the date due.

**False Alarms; Administrative Charges.** Any person, business, corporation or other entity having a permissible alarm system with alarm device(s) at one or more locations in accordance with this ordinance shall pay the Town a charge for false alarms responded to by the Fire Department according to the following schedule for each calendar year for each location alarmed:

All false alarms responded to by the Fire Department firefighting personnel and apparatus:

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| a. First two (2) false alarms for a location                        | No Charge |
| b. Third (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) and subsequent false alarm per location | \$500.00  |

This subsection is intended to impose a strict liability on the person, business, corporation or other entity responsible for alarm connection to an alarm receiving firm to which the Fire Department responded and shall be applied regardless of the cause of the false alarm excepting those alarms excluded from the definition of a "False Alarm." Failure to pay such administrative charge(s) in and of itself shall constitute a violation of this Section, and such charges(s) shall be collectable as a forfeiture upon prosecution and conviction thereof.

When any premises located in the Town is owned, leased, or occupied by two (2) or more persons as joint tenants, tenants in common, joint lessees, or in any other manner, each person shall see that the provisions of this ordinance are complied with, and each person may be subjected to a penalty on violation of this ordinance.

**Default of Payment for Forfeiture and/or Costs.** On default of payment of forfeiture and/or costs under this ordinance, such person or responsible officer of the violating corporation or other entity, shall be confined in the county jail until the same be paid, but not to exceed six (6) months. Upon nonpayment of the fee, the amount due may be placed on the tax roll as a special charge pursuant to Sec.66.00(16), Wis. Stats.

#### **Town Liability**

The Town of Farmington shall be under no duty or obligation to a subscriber or to any other person concerning any provision of this Ordinance, including, but not limited to, any defects in an alarm system or any delays in transmission or response to any alarm; however in no way shall be construed that it is not the proper function of the Fire Department to respond to alarms.

Adapted by the Farmington Town Board, August 3, 1999

Sidney Hetland, Clerk  
Town of Farmington