

**TOWN OF NEW FAIRFIELD**  
**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE USE OF ALARM SYSTEMS**  
ADOPTED FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1989 EFFECTIVE DATE THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1989

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to govern burglary, fire, and robbery alarm systems, require permits, establish fees, provide for evocation of permits, provide for a method of limiting and controlling false alarms, and provide for penalties for violation of this ordinance.

2. ALARM SYSTEM

Any device designed to signal the occurrence of an illegal entry or other activity requiring urgent attention and to which police, fire or other municipal authority ("Emergency Service") are expected to respond. "Alarm System" includes any telephone device or equipment in a residence or place of business which is capable of automatically calling and relaying recorded emergency messages or other forms of emergency messages to State Police or Municipal Police or Fire Department telephone number.

3. ALARM USER

The person, firm partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind in control of any building, structure or facility, whether residential, commercial or otherwise in which an alarm system is installed and maintained.

4. PERMIT

- 4.1 Permits will be obtained at the New Fairfield Communication Center
- 4.2 Every alarm user (Including the Town of New Fairfield) shall obtain from the New Fairfield Communications Center, a nontransferable alarm user permit for each alarm system that he operates after the effective date of this ordinance. No alarm system may be connected, activated or otherwise made operative. Nor any alarm call placed to emergency services, whether directly or through an intermediary, unless an alarm user permit has been obtained.
- 4.3 An alarm user permit will be valid for a period of two years, and will, expire on the second anniversary of the date of its issuance. Alarm user permits must be renewed on or before the date of expiration. A fee will be payable for issuance or renewal of alarm user permits.
- 4.4 Issuance or renewal of an alarm user permit will be conditioned upon the following
  - 4.4.1 The alarm user must complete an application form that will be kept in the Communications Center. Information on the application form will be maintained in confidence to the degree permitted by applicable state and federal law.
  - 4.4.2 After the effective date of this ordinance an alarm user must give a 10 day notice, to emergency services required by section 7-28B, Connecticut General Statutes, prior to connection or installation of an alarm system.
  - 4.4.3 In case of a non-telephonic local alarm systems which operate by use of an external sound producing device, the Communications Center must be provided with a current list of at least three individuals to be called should the alarm system be activated and must be provided with instructions of deactivation of the alarm. If the alarm mechanism so permits. No later than the effective date of this ordinance. All emergency alarm systems with an exterior sound producing device must be equipped so as to limit the operation of the exterior sound producing to 15 minutes or less.
  - 4.4.4 Alarm systems must be equipped or installed so that, if a main source of power fails, the system will not cause a false alarm due to a power failure until at least 4 hours after the power failure,
  - 4.4.5 All alarm systems installed after the effective date of this ordinance must have a means of testing detection circuits before the alarm becomes operations.

5. FALSE ALARM

False alarm means the activation of an alarm system caused by mechanical or electrical failure, improper installation, equipment malfunction or the negligence of the user or operation, except that the following shall not be considered false alarms:

- 4.1 Alarms caused by malfunction of the monitoring equipment at the governmental or municipal dispatch facility.
- 4.2 Alarms caused by damage to or the malfunction, testing or repair by the telephone company of telephone equipment or lines.
- 4.3 Alarm caused by an extraneous event outside the ability of the alarm user of predict or control, or by an act of God such as earthquakes, flood, or violent windstorm.
- 4.4 Alarm intentionally caused by the resident, owner, or an employee, acting under the sincere belief that a need exists to call for emergency services.
- 4.5 Alarm followed by an immediate call or signal to the Communication Center to cancel the alarm; such call having been made prior to any response activity by emergency services.
- 4.6 Subsequent alarms occurring within 24 hours after a false alarm.

#### 6. PENALTY FOR FALSE ALARMS

Upon receipt of a third false alarm within a 12-month period, a warning notice shall be issued by the Communications Center, to the alarm user. Any additional false alarms within the 12-month period shall subject the alarm user to a citation for each subsequent, false alarm. The citation will include a service to be paid to the Communications Center.

#### 7. REVOCATION OF ALARM USER PERMIT

If an alarm user fails to pay any service fee or permit fee within 7 days after it is due, or if more than 6 false alarms are received within a 12-month period. Notice of a proposed revocation of the alarm user permit will be sent to the alarm user. A satisfactory response required the payment of delinquent fees and the certification that problems or faults with the alarm system. Resulting in the occurrence of false alarms, have been corrected, and that the alarm system again conforms to the requirements of this ordinance. If satisfactory response is not received, the alarm user will be given a citation revoking his alarm user permit. If the alarm system is operated after the alarm user permit is revoked, an additional penalty will be assessed against the alarm user.

#### 8. APPEAL PROCESS

An alarm user may appeal, a false alarm warning notice or citation, or a notice of proposed revocation of an alarm user permit, to the chief of police of the New Fairfield Police Department. A request for an appeal must be submitted in writing to the Chief of Police within 7 days of the receipt of action being appealed. The chief of police will be promptly notify the alarm user of the time and date of a meeting to discuss the appeal. The action being appealed will be suspended until the chief of police renders a decision of the appeal. The chief of police may affirm, modify, or reverse the action being appealed, and will so notify the alarm user of the writing.

#### 9. CITATION HEARING PROCEDURE

Citations issued pursuant to this ordinance will be subjected to an ordinance establish a citation hearing procedure, should, such an ordinance be adopted by the Town of New Fairfield.

#### 10. SCHEDULE OF FEES AND PENALTIES

Alarm users permit fees, services, fees and penalties will be established and modified from time to time by the Board of Selectman. The schedule of fees will be in effect on the effective date of this ordinance is appended hereto in Appendix 1.

#### 11. EFFECTIVE DATE

For new installation of alarm systems, the effective date of this ordinance will be the day after its adoption for existing alarm systems, the effective date of this ordinance will be the 90<sup>th</sup> day after its adoption.

## **ALARM ORDINANCE FEES AND FINES**

<b>ALARM USER PERMIT FEE</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>RENEWAL FEE</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>OPERATION OF ALARM WITHOUT A PERMIT</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b><u>EXCESSIVE FALSE ALARMS</u></b>	
<b>3<sup>RD</sup> FALSE ALARM</b>	<b>WRITTEN WARNING</b>
<b>4<sup>TH</sup> FALSE ALARM</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>5<sup>TH</sup> FALSE ALARM</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
<b>6<sup>TH</sup> FALSE ALARM</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>7<sup>TH</sup> FALSE ALARM</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
<b><u>NOTICE OF PROPOSED REVOCATION</u></b>	
<b>8<sup>TH</sup> FALSE ALARM</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>
<b>OPERATION OF ALARM AFTER REVOCATION</b>	<b>UP TO \$500.00</b>

**IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS ORDINANCE YOU CAN CALL THE NEW FAIRFIELD COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AT (203) 312-5701**