

CHAPTER 52A

PREVENTION OF AVOIDABLE FALSE ALARMS

~ 52A.1 **Purpose**

It is the purpose of this chapter to protect and promote the public health, safety and general welfare by eliminating avoidable false fire and burglar alarms and thereby ensuring that fire and police facilities and personnel will be available for actual emergencies. False alarms unnecessarily drain resources and require emergency responses which contribute to increased accident rates and which delay responses to real emergencies.

~ 52A.2 **Applicability**

This chapter applies to all installed fire and burglar alarms which are directly connected to a police or fire agency or to a private agency which, in turn, makes a connection to a police or fire agency or to no agency but merely sounds an alarm on the premises, each installed alarm having the purpose of notifying police and/or fire agencies or others that an emergency exists at the site of such installed alarm requiring an immediate response from police or fire agency. This chapter does not apply to state, county, town, Village and school buildings or alarms.

~ 52A.3 **Definitions**

As used in this chapter the following terms shall have the following meaning:

AVOIDABLE FALSE ALARM -- Any false alarm reported or received by a local police or fire agency from an installed alarm which is caused by improper installation of the system, by a mechanical failure or malfunction of the system or is due to negligence on the part of the owner, user, custodian or other person responsible for the installed alarm. An avoidable false alarm does not include an alarm activated by a natural phenomenon such as a tornado, earthquake, or the like, or by acts of third parties which are beyond control of the person responsible for the installed alarm.

INSTALLED ALARM -- Any mechanical or electrical device installed in a building or on premises for the purpose of automatically notifying, directly or indirectly, police or fire agencies or sounding an alarm when a break-in or fire occurs and used for the purpose of summoning help from police or fire agencies.

~ 52A.4 **Permits and Fees**

A. Effective immediately, a Village permit is required for the installation and/or operation of any installed alarm which serves to alert, either directly or indirectly, the Police or Fire Department. Permits for those installed alarms which are now in operation must be obtained within 60 days of the effective date of this chapter.

B. There will be no cost to the applicant for a permit. Permits will be issued by the Village Clerk upon completion of an application providing the following information:

1. Date of application.
2. Type of alarm.

3. Name, address and telephone number of the person responsible for the alarm.
4. Address and extent of premises protected by the alarm.
5. Location of the alarm device enunciator panel(s).
6. Offices or agencies notified by the alarm.
7. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons to be contacted in the event of an alarm, any time of the day or night, and who will respond to the alarm and are authorized by the alarm user to enter the premises.
8. Other information required by the Clerk.

~ 52A.5 **False alarms prohibited; penalties for offenses**

A. Any person who is responsible for operating an installed alarm without a permit shall be fined not less than \$100, plus an additional \$50 for each ten days that the alarm is operated without a permit thereafter.

B. Any person who is responsible for an installed alarm which causes more than two avoidable false alarms within a twelve-month period shall be liable for a civil penalty of \$100 for the third false alarm within any twelve-month period; \$200 for the fourth false alarm within any twelve-month period; and \$300 for the fifth and each subsequent false alarm in any twelve-month period.

~ 52A.6 **Deactivation of local alarms**

A. After a false alarm, the local alarm system shall become deactivated and silenced automatically after a period of time not to exceed fifteen minutes by the alarm owner or agent.

B. Police and/or fire officials may disable an audible alarm signal that has not been silenced prior to the expiration of the fifteen-minute period and shall not be liable for any damage that may result.

Historical Note

Chapter 52a was added by Local Law #2 of 2000, enacted 7-31-2000.