

Police Department False Alarm Guidelines

Chapter 31 of the City of Midland ordinances, as amended, establishes a fine schedule for Police Department response to false alarms. This amended ordinance was effective July 1, 1997. The fine schedule, standards, and regulations are outlined below.

A. Alarm fees:

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|-----|-------------------------------------|-------|
| (1) | First False Alarm: | \$25 |
| (2) | Second False Alarm: | \$50 |
| (3) | Third False Alarm: | \$75 |
| (4) | Fourth and Subsequent False Alarms: | \$100 |

If no false alarms are experienced within a 24 month period, the fine schedule shall be reset to a baseline status.

B. Alarm fees will be assessed under the following circumstances:

- (1) If there was no evidence of illegal entry or attempted entry.
- (2) If the alarm was activated by mistake.
- (3) If the alarm was activated by a person working on the alarm system, without prior police department dispatch (911) notification.
- (4) If police response was not cancelled prior to the officers arrival at the scene.

C. Alarm fees will not be assessed under the following circumstances:

- (1) If the false alarm was caused by severe weather conditions.
- (2) If the false alarm was caused by an utility company (electric, telephone) power disruption.
- (3) If the fee is waived by the Chief of Police, or designee, due to documented, extenuating circumstances.
- (4) If the Chief of Police, or designee, is notified on or before the date of installation of a new alarm system, false alarm fines may be waived for a ninety (90) day grace period, beginning with the date that the alarm system is installed.

D. Ordered disconnection of an alarm system:

The Chief of Police may order an individual or alarm business to disconnect an alarm system, under the following circumstances:

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(1) If an alarm user or subscriber is more that ninety (90) days delinquent in payment of false alarm fees, or:

(2) If five (5) false alarms occur during any calendar year and, after the fourth false alarm, a warning letter is sent to the alarm system user, and:

(3) The alarm user or subscriber has been notified that a six (6) month probationary period is in effect, and:

(4) Three false alarms have been received during the six (6) month probationary period.