

ALARMS

47.010 TITLE.

This Chapter shall be known as the Polk County Alarm Response Ordinance. [Ord. 94-12, Sec.2]

47.020 DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Chapter, the following terms are defined:

(1) "Alarm" means any mechanical or electrical device or assembly of equipment, designed or arranged to signal the occurrence of an illegal entry or other activity requiring urgent attention and to which the police are expected to respond.

(2) "Alarm User" means any person, firm, partnership, or corporation of any kind in control of any building, premises, structure, or facility upon which an alarm is maintained.

(3) "False alarm" means an alarm signal to which the Sheriff's Office responds with any emergency service personnel or equipment when a situation requiring a response by the Sheriff's Office does not in fact exist and which signal is caused by the inadvertence, negligence, or intentional act or omission of an alarm user, or a malfunction of the alarm. The following shall not be considered false alarms:

- (a) Alarms caused by the testing, repair, or malfunction of telephone equipment or lines, where the Polk County Sheriff's Office has been notified in advance of said testing or repairing.
- (b) Alarms caused by the testing, repair, or malfunction of electrical utility equipment or lines, where the Polk County Sheriff's Office has been notified in advance of said testing or repairing.
- (c) Alarms caused by an Act of God, including floods, earthquakes, windstorms, thunder, or lightning.
- (d) Alarms caused by an illegal entry of which there is visible evidence.
- (e) When the Polk County Sheriff's Office is notified before an emergency service vehicle or personnel arrive on scene that the alarm they are responding to is a false alarm.

47.030 FEES.

Alarm users shall pay a fee for each false alarm response by the Polk County Sheriff's Office during a calendar year according to the annual fee schedule adopted by Resolution by the Board of Commissioners.

47.040 CALCULATION AND RECORDS.

The Records Division of the Polk County Sheriff's Office shall keep a written account of the location of all false alarms, the number of false alarms per location, and if a fee was assessed. This written account shall be updated as the reports on the false alarms are given to the Records Division. The appropriate response to each false alarm shall be taken at this time in accordance with the existing annual fee schedule.

47.050 COLLECTION OF FEES.

All fees resulting from false alarms shall be paid at the Records Division window in the Polk County Sheriff's Office within thirty (30) days of invoice.

47.060 LOSS OF SERVICE.

Upon a showing of more than eight (8) false alarms during a calendar year, or refusal to pay false alarm fees, the Sheriff may elect upon written notice to the alarm user to discontinue alarm response service. [Ord. 94-12, Sec. 2]