

CHAPTER 3

ALARM SYSTEMS

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7-3-101 Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

Activate means to “set off” an alarm system indicating in any manner an incidence of burglary, robbery, fire, etc.

Alarm system means any device which is designed to be used for the detection of fire or unauthorized entry into a building or property. An “alarm system” means any device for alerting others of fire or of the commission of an unauthorized entry except systems installed in motor vehicles, self contained smoke detectors and medical alert alarms. Alarm systems include direct dial telephone devices, audible alarms and monitored alarms.

Automatic dialing device means an alarm system which automatically sends over by telephone a message or coded signal indicating the existence of an emergency situation that the alarm system is designed to detect.

False alarm means the activation of an alarm system by a stimulus other than fire or an unlawful act.

Fire officer means the Director of the Wilson Emergency Management Authority (WEMA).

Law enforcement officer means the Mt. Juliet Chief of Police.

Person means any natural person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind.

7-3-102 Notification required – Permit fees.

Every person who shall own, operate or lease any alarm system within the City of Mt. Juliet, shall, prior to use of the alarm system, give notice to the law enforcement officer, on forms to be provided, and obtain a permit. The information on the forms shall include:

The type, make and model of each alarm device and, if the alarm system is monitored, by whom;

Whether installed in a residential or commercial premises;

The name, address, business and home telephone number of the owner or lessee of the alarm system;

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least two persons to be notified in the event of an alarm activation, including the name, address, telephone number and date of birth of at least one local person to be responsible for the alarm system.

7-3-103 Registration fee.

Each alarm owner shall pay an annual registration fee of ten dollars for each alarm system on residential property and twenty-five dollars for each alarm system on commercial property. Registration fees shall be due on 1 April of each year. Permit fees shall be placed in the Mt. Juliet general fund. Fees for direct monitoring by Mt. Juliet, when not prohibited by TCA 62-32-321(a)(2)(A), shall be \$120.00 per month. (*Amended by Ordinance 98/3*)

7-3-104 Employee training.

Each owner, operator or lessee shall be responsible for training employees, servants or agents in the proper operation of their alarm system. Training shall include the numbers to call after a false alarm and how to shut the system off after activation.

7-3-105 Address identification.

Each person renting or owning property shall comply with Mt. Juliet Code Section 7-1-103 pertaining to address numbers and shall post the alarm registration sticker near the front door so as to be clearly visible from the front of the building.

7-3-106 Audible alarms.

All audible alarms shall be equipped with an automatic shutoff to function within twenty minutes of the alarm sounding. This subsection shall not apply to fire alarms.

7-3-107 Automatic dialing devices. Automatic dialing devices shall:

- a. Not call the "911" emergency line. Such devices shall be restricted to dialing the non-emergency police communications phone numbers. No automatic dialer shall dial any fire communications phone number. (See TCA 7-86-118)
- b. Have a clearly understandable recording;
- c. Be programmed to repeat its message a minimum of two times;
- d. Automatically reset itself so as to not continuously call police communications phone numbers.
- e. Be programmed to give the owner's or resident's name and the exact street number and name.
- f. Be programmed to state that it is an alarm. The device shall not say a burglary or robbery is in progress.
- g. State the hours the property is occupied if the alarm is used for as a robbery or panic alarm as well as burglar alarm.
- h. State whether the device has notified a third party and the identity of the third party.

7-3-108 False alarms. Required reports of corrective action and disconnection.

- a. The owner of the alarm, the owner or lessee of the building and the people using the building and the person triggering an alarm shall all bear responsibility for false alarms.
- b. A response to an alarm shall result when fire or police department personnel discover or are notified of an activation of an alarm system. If the user or user's agent calls the dispatcher within five minutes of activation, it shall not be considered a false alarm unless an officer has already arrived on the scene or a fire truck has moved in response to the alarm.
- c. For all false alarms in excess of five in a permit year, the person who controls the premises and such other persons as they may blame may be cited to the Mt. Juliet City Court for allowing a false alarm to be conveyed to the police department. (See Ordinance 98/3)
- d. Within fifteen days of the date of each false alarm, the owner of the premises may be required to notify the Chief of Police in writing of the corrective action that has been taken to prevent future false alarms. Failure to so notify the Chief of Police shall, in itself, be a violation of

the Mt. Juliet Code. (See Ordinance 98/3)

- e. Activations caused by a violent act of nature shall not be considered "false alarms" provided the owner of the alarm notifies the Law Enforcement Officer of the "violent act of nature" within fifteen days of the event. No act of nature shall be deemed to be a "violent act of nature" unless some physical damage is done to the property or the alarm system. (See TCA 62-32-321)

7-3-109 Enforcement, violation and penalty.

- a. Any person may cause the issuance of a warrant for violation of this ordinance.
- b. It shall be a violation of the Mt. Juliet Code for any person to have a functional alarm system in Mt. Juliet without having obtained a permit as required by this code.
- c. It shall be a violation of this code to own an alarm system which is activated without a permit having issued for the system.
- d. It shall be a violation to lease or sell an alarm system in Mt. Juliet without insuring compliance with this code.
- e. It shall be a violation of this code for the owner and person in charge of property to knowingly or purposefully fail to respond to the premises within one hour after notice of an alarm activation, whether false or not.
- f. It shall be a violation of this code to set off a false alarm to test a system.
- g. Violations of this code shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars per offense, provided however, fines for false alarms shall not exceed \$25.00 each. (See Ordinance 98/3)