

THE TOWN OF CAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO THE INSTALLATION, MONITORING, AND RESPONSE TO PRIVATE ALARM SYSTEMS OPERATING WITHIN THE TOWN

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Board of Selectmen by vote of the 1996 Annual Meeting of the Town of Campton under Article 29, the Board adopts the following:

PRIVATE ALARM SYSTEM ORDINANCE

Section I. Purpose.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to: establish specific guidelines for the installation, monitoring and response to private alarm systems installed within the Town; to insure that new and existing alarm systems are maintained in a safe and operable condition; and to establish fees and requirements for individuals who utilize private alarm systems so as to minimize the diversion of limited police resources occasioned by false alarms.

Section II. Definitions.

In this Ordinance:

(A) "Alarm System" includes any electrical or mechanical device designed to detect or report fire, unauthorized intrusion, robbery, medical emergencies, low temperature, or other emergency conditions. Individual fire detectors which are not part of a monitored system shall not be considered private alarm systems.

(B) "False Alarm" means any activation of an alarm system caused by equipment malfunction or operating error which causes the reporting of a condition not in existence.

(C) "Off Premises Reporting" means any electrical or mechanical means by which the activation of an alarm system is reported to an outside location, including, but not limited to, telephone digital communications, radio signal, direct wire, and tape dialers.

(D) "Owner" means the person, firm, or corporation which is the legal owner of the property. The primary responsibility for compliance with this Ordinance shall be vested in the property owner. The Town may, when appropriate, require compliance by the occupant of the property or the user of the alarm system.

Section III. Registration Required.

(A) The owner of any premises protected by a private alarm system shall register the alarm with the Town as follows:

- (1) All alarm systems which report the detection of fire, smoke or medical emergencies by use of off-premises reporting shall be registered with the Selectmen's Office. A \$10 registration fee must be submitted with the alarm permit application.
 - (2) All alarm systems which report the detection of unauthorized intrusion, robbery, low temperature or other emergencies by use of off-premises reporting shall be registered with the Selectmen's Office and Chief of Police. A \$10 registration fee must be submitted with the permit application.
- (B)
- (1) Alarm systems shall be registered in accordance with rules adopted by the Campton Police Chief. The Communications Supervisor of the Plymouth Dispatch Center, or that agency currently supplying emergency communications to the Campton Police Department at the time of registration, shall advise the Chief as to dispatch requirements. Any person using a self-dialing alarm shall comply with RSA 370-A:2 and New Hampshire Department of Safety rules in addition to registration under this Ordinance.
 - (2) Registration shall be made on a form provided by the Town to include: identification of owner and site location; identification of any unusual fire, life safety, or theft hazard kept on the premises; identification of the alarm company or a maintenance person who will be available 24 hours a day; the names, addresses and phone numbers of two persons, other than the occupants of the premises, who are generally available to allow emergency personnel access to the premises.
 - (3) Prior to accepting registration, the premises shall be inspected by the Police Chief or his designee.

(C) Any owner registering an alarm system under this Ordinance shall execute an acknowledgement that registration does not constitute a representation that the Town will provide any specific type of response. Such response shall be at the discretion of the appropriate agency.

Section IV. Responsibilities of Alarm Owners.

This section shall apply to any owner or user of a private alarm system connected to the Plymouth Dispatch Center or monitored by a private firm which contacts the Campton Police Department, whether or not that system is registered under this Ordinance.

(A) An alarm owner or user shall notify the Plymouth Dispatch Center and the Campton Police Department of the installation and location of the private alarm system and also any time when the system is removed or is down for repairs.

(B) An alarm owner or user shall be responsible for maintaining the alarm system in good and operable condition at all times so as to preclude or minimize the possibility of a false alarm.

(C) The alarm owner or user shall proceed with due diligence to locate and correct any problem which causes a false alarm, including contacting the person monitoring the alarm and/or any person who may be responsible for repairing the system.

(D) The Town may require that any system which is improperly functioning and which is not properly maintained or repaired shall be disconnected or removed.

Section V. Responsibilities of the Campton Police Department.

(A) If the Campton Police Department responds to an alarm activation and determines that the alarm is false, the responding officer shall notify the Dispatch Center, including the possible cause of malfunction if determined. Such possible cause of malfunction shall be noted by the Dispatch Center on its report of call for service, and the on-duty officer shall note same on the call-for-service card.

(B) Within 48 hours of receiving a false alarm, the Campton Police Chief, or his designee, shall notify the alarm owner or user of the false alarm. The notice shall include the amount of any fee imposed under this Ordinance and shall direct the owner or user to contact the firm monitoring the alarm to check the system to correct any possible problems.

Section VI. Alarms Monitored by the Plymouth Dispatch Center.

(A) No person shall install any private alarm system to be monitored by the Plymouth Dispatch Center without the written approval of the Plymouth Police Chief.

(B) If permission is granted, the alarm installer shall insure that equipment utilized is compatible with equipment at the Plymouth Dispatch Center.

(C) The Town of Campton may provide an occasional test upon request of the alarm owner to determine if the alarm is in proper working order.

(D) The Town of Campton accepts no responsibility for the proper functioning of any private alarm system monitored at the Plymouth Dispatch Center.

Section VII. Alarms Monitored by Private Firms.

Any person who has an alarm system monitored by a firm other than the Plymouth Dispatch Center shall be assessed the false alarm fee established by Section VIII for any false alarm reported.

Section VIII. Fees.

(A) For any response by the Campton Police Department or other Town service other than the Plymouth Dispatch Center, the owner of the premises on which the false alarm occurred shall pay the following fees:

- (1) For a response to premises at which no other false alarm has occurred within the preceding 6-month period, no fee shall be charged if the alarm owner files in writing to the Police Chief, within 3 working days after notice of the false alarm, the following information:
 - (a) the cause of the false alarm;
 - (b) the corrective action taken;
 - (c) whether the alarm system has been inspected by an authorized serviceman; and
 - (d) such other information as the Police Chief may reasonably require to determine the cause of such false alarm and corrective action necessary.
- (2) For a second response to the same premises within a 6-month period, a fee of \$10.00 will be assessed, provided that the alarm owner demonstrates to the Police Chief that the system has been inspected and any problems corrected.
- (3) Fees for responding to a false alarm for the third, fourth or fifth time during any 6-month period shall be \$25, \$50 and \$75 respectively, subject to the same certification required as set forth in Section VIII (B).

- (4) The fee for the sixth and each subsequent response shall be \$100 per false alarm and the owner may be required to attend a Selectmen's meeting to discuss the continuing problem.

(B) The owner of any alarm system who fails to register his alarm system shall pay a fee of \$25 each time the alarm system is responded to by any agency of the Town of Campton. This fee may be waived by the Selectmen if the alarm is registered within 48 hours of the alarm response.

(C) Any false alarm which can be attributed to interruption in power service, uncontrollable weather conditions, or violent acts of nature shall not be used in the computation of fees assessed against the alarm owner.

Section IX. Violations, Penalties.

(A) Any owner or user of a private alarm system which is connected to the Plymouth Dispatch Center or monitored by a private firm which contacts the Campton Police Department for a response who violates any provision of this Ordinance or a rule adopted hereunder (except as provided in Section IX (B) or who refuses to meet with the Board of Selectmen upon request as provided in Section VIII (A) (4) shall be fined \$25.00 for each offense.

(B) Any person who fails to pay a false alarm fee assessed pursuant to Section VIII within 10 days after notice of the assessment shall be fined \$100.00 for each offense.

(C) Any person who fails to register an alarm system as required by this Ordinance shall be fined \$100.00 for each offense.

Section X. Enforcement.

The Campton Board of Selectmen, Police Chief and all duly sworn members of the Campton Police Department may enforce this Ordinance. Any unregistered alarm system may be disconnected from the Police Department or Plymouth Dispatch Center with or without notice. Any person who fails to take necessary corrective action to prevent false alarms may be required to disconnect, disable or remove the alarm system.

Section XI. Authority of Selectmen to Revise Ordinance and Fees Charged.

The Board of Selectmen may change the fee structure or adopt such other changes in this Ordinance as they deem appropriate following notice and public hearing.

Section XII. Separability.

If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid by any court or other competent authority, such holding shall not affect the validity of any other clause, phrase or provision.

Section XIII. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect on 06-01, 1996.