

Did you know?

- Nationally, between 94% - 98% of alarms are false.
- In 2009, Prescott Police responded to 2,923 alarm calls, 2,913 of which were false alarms.
- In 2009, false alarms accounted for over 99% of all Prescott Police alarm calls and over 40% of all Priority One calls.
- False alarms result in a vast consumption of police manpower, costing the City of Prescott in excess of \$70,000 each year.
- When police are responding to false alarms, they may be delayed in responding to true emergencies or situations in which a crime has actually occurred.
- The vast majority of false alarms are the result of:
 - Faulty equipment
 - Poor equipment choice
 - Faulty installation
 - Outdated equipment
 - User error / lack of proper training in use of system



For More Information Contact

Prescott Police Department
Alarm Coordinator
222 S. Marina Street
Prescott, AZ 86303

Phone: (928) 777-1906

Fax: (928) 778-3739

Email: suzan.belile@prescott-az.gov

Or visit our website:
www.prescott-az.gov/services/police

Crime Prevention Services

Residential & Business Security Survey

For a FREE security survey for your home or business, contact the Prescott Police Department's Crime Prevention Team at (928) 777-1967.

Vacation Watch

Prescott Police Department offers a Vacation Watch for your residence for up to 30 days per calendar year. This service is FREE to all Prescott residents. To schedule, contact Prescott Police Records at (928) 777-1988.



City of Prescott

False Alarm Ordinance

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**What You Need To Know
If You Have
An Alarm System
In Your Home Or Business**

The Alarm Ordinance

A new False Alarm Ordinance #4760-1111 was adopted by the Prescott City Council on May 10, 2011. This Ordinance is also known as Title V, Chapter 6, Alarm Systems, of the City Code.

The Prescott Police Department began enforcement action on the False Alarm Ordinance on July 1, 2011.

What is a False Alarm?

Any activation of an alarm eliciting response by Police personnel when a situation requiring a response does not in fact exist. This would include mechanical failure or malfunction, improper installation or maintenance, user error, intentional activation when no criminal or emergency condition exists, or any other cause not related to an actual or attempted criminal act. **This also includes calls that are later cancelled.**

What is Not Considered a False Alarm?

Any alarm caused by a severe act of nature, activation for routine testing/ installation **if** advance notice has been given to Police Department, testing/repair/ malfunction of utility lines or equipment not under control of the alarm user, malicious acts of persons not under the direction or control of alarm user, government agencies, proprietary alarms that do not result in a call to police, and independent stand-alone alarm systems installed or placed by or at the direction of the Prescott Police Department for law enforcement purposes.

False Alarm Assessments

Is An Alarm Permit Required?

No alarm permit or registration is required.

False Alarm Assessment Fees

The following assessments will be levied against the alarm user, or responsible party, for each response by the Prescott Police Department to a false alarm within a twelve month period, which begins on the date of the first false alarm. These assessments are in addition to any other assessment or penalties which may be levied.

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| First Response | No Charge |
| Second Response | No Charge |
| Third Response | \$100 |
| Fourth Response | \$200 |
| Fifth Response | \$300 |
| Sixth Response | \$400 |
| Seventh and Subsequent Responses | Increase of \$100 per false alarm |

Is There An Appeal Process?

Yes. If an alarm owner believes that they have been charged unjustly, based on the cause or exemption of a false alarm, they can obtain an appeals petition from the City website or the Alarm Coordinator and submit the completed form to the Alarm Coordinator for reconsideration. All appeals will be reviewed by the Chief of Police or his designee. **The appeal must be submitted within twenty (20) days of the assessment notice mailing.**

How To Avoid A False Alarm

- Make sure everyone is familiar with the alarm system operations.
- Secure doors and windows before turning on the system.
- Be aware of changes in the environment (new animals, design changes, seasonal decorations, plants).
- Notify monitoring facility of any and all changes (house guests, name changes, new renters, new employees, termination of employees).
- Equipment should be routinely inspected and maintained by qualified personnel (check all contacts and routinely dust motion detectors).

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