

ARTICLE IX. ALARM SYSTEMS

Sec. 11-900. PURPOSE AND INTENT.

The erroneous and mistaken use of burglary alarms and fire alarms and those that are not installed and maintained properly has resulted in increased service calls by the Montpelier Police Department and Montpelier Fire Department, thereby creating a hazard to the members of those departments and to the general public. The City Council hereby finds that the public good and necessity require that the City of Montpelier control alarm misuse, provide technically sound monitoring equipment, and to provide a dependable alarm monitoring system.

Sec. 11-901. DEFINITIONS.

(a) Alarm System. Any assembly or equipment, mechanical or electrical, arranged to signal the occurrences of an illegal entry, fire, medical emergency, robbery or other activity requiring the urgent attention to which police or fire departments are expected to respond.

(b) False Alarm.

- (1) **Error or mistake**. Any action by any person, firm or corporation or other entity owning, occupying or operating any dwelling, building, or place or any action by an agent or employee of said firm, corporation or other entity which results in the activation of an alarm system when no emergency exists.
- (2) **Malfunction**. Any unintentional activation of any alarm system caused by a flaw in design, installation or maintenance of the system. This shall not include any activation caused by violent conditions of nature or other extraordinary circumstances, not reasonably subject to control of the alarm user.
- (3) **Intentional Misuse**. Any intentional activation of an alarm system when no burglary, robbery fire or other emergency is in progress.

Sec. 11-902. INSTALLATION AND RESPONSE.

(a) No alarm system shall be placed in service after installation in any dwelling, business or place within the city of Montpelier without prior notice to the Chief of Police and Fire Chief, or their designees.

(b) All alarm systems, present and future, directly connected to the Montpelier Police Department or Montpelier Fire Department shall be of a type that is compatible with the alarm monitoring system and central system in use at the Montpelier Police Department or Montpelier Fire Department. Such alarm system shall comply with the criteria established in "Standard for Central Station Burglar Alarm Units and Systems", issued by Underwriters' Laboratories (US 611-1972) or American National Standards Institute (ANSI SE2.2-1972) in effect upon the date of installation of such alarm system.

(c) Any person, firm, corporation or other entity causing any alarm system to be installed in any dwelling, building or place prior to placing such alarm in service, and for so long as said system shall remain operative, shall provide the Montpelier Police Department and Montpelier Fire Department the names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least two (2) persons who shall have access to the premises in which such alarm system is installed, and the knowledge and ability to make said system secure in case of activation. The name, address and telephone number of any person, firm

or corporation responsible for servicing the alarm system shall be conspicuously posted upon or near said system.

- (1) All remote systems not directly connected to the Montpelier Police Department or Montpelier Fire Department shall meet the requirements of Section (c). Additionally, the Montpelier Police Department and Montpelier Fire Department shall be notified as to the location of the answering station and its operator.
- (2) All such remote alarms not directly connected to the Montpelier Police Department or Montpelier Fire Department shall also list the priority of calls made by the answering station. Response by the Montpelier Police Department and/or Montpelier Fire Department to any alarms not meeting the notification requirement of 11-902 (a) alarms shall be at the sole discretion of the on-duty officer in charge at the direction of the Chief of Police or Fire Chief.

(d) The costs of all equipment and connection to the Police or Fire Department alarm system, as well as the maintenance thereof, shall be borne by the party installing and desiring the service of such system.

(e) The City of Montpelier assumes no additional responsibility for the security of any person or property other than that accorded to any other person or property with or without an alarm system. In the event several emergencies occur simultaneously, it shall be the duty of the police or fire officer in charge to determine the response priorities, however, all activated systems shall be responded to and a record made thereof.

(f) When any alarm system is activated, the Police and Fire Department shall respond to the alarm and notify the person or persons listed in Subsection (c) hereof. Said person shall immediately go to the place where the alarm is sounding to meet the police or fire officers to secure said building to reset the alarm, or provide access.

(g) Should any person responsible for any alarm system, when notified of its activation, refuse to respond pursuant to Subsection (f) hereof, the police or fire officers on the scene shall check the property thoroughly and secure the location as much as possible. The Montpelier Police Department or Montpelier Fire Department shall not be required to make any further responses to that building, dwelling or place until such time as said alarm system has been properly reset.

(h) No alarm system of the tape dialer type, except those tape dialer systems known by the Montpelier Police Department to be in usage as of February 28, 1985, shall be installed with the City. Police or Fire Department personnel will not be required to respond to alarms of this type, and the City shall not be held liable for any loss or claims resulting.

Sec. 11-903. FALSE ALARMS - ERRORS, MISTAKES OR MALFUNCTIONS: PENALTY.

(a) No false alarm, as defined in Section 11-901 (b) (1) or (2) shall be sounded in any dwelling, building or place when no emergency exists which results in the response of the Montpelier Police Department or Montpelier Fire Department.

(b) The charges for excessive false alarms in a 30-day period shall be set from time to time by the City Council and be adopted in resolution form.

Sec. 11-904. INTENTIONAL: PENALTY.

(a) No person shall knowingly or intentionally activate any alarm system when no emergency situation exists.

(b) No person shall knowingly or intentionally test any alarm system without first notifying the Montpelier Police Department or the Montpelier Fire Department of such test and receiving approval for same.

(c) Any person who violates Subsection (a) and (b) shall be fined One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars and shall additionally be subject to prosecution as provided by law.

Sec. 11-905. FAILURE TO PAY FINES: AUTHORITY OF CHIEF OF POLICE.

If any person, firm, corporation or other entity fails to pay within thirty (30) days any charge levied under Section 11-903 or 11-904 above, the Chief of Police or Fire Chief shall remove the subject alarm from the dispatch panel fifteen (15) days after notification by registered letter to such person, firm, corporation or other entity.

Sec's. 11-906 to 11-999. Reserved.

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