

**Excessive False Alarm Inspection &  
Alarm Registration Fee Schedule  
Resolution 2023-06  
Effective January 1, 2024**

**Section 1-Definitions**

**This section establishes fees for excessive and unnecessary false fire alarms and costs associated with registering fire alarm systems under the Summit County alarm management program. False fire alarms unnecessarily endanger firefighters and citizens during a response.**

1.1 **Definitions:** The following definitions shall apply to this resolution:

1. **Category I Alarms:** Any alarm requiring a fire department response where the system is appropriately operated under the following conditions:
  - a. **Accidental:** Any alarms caused by accidental smoke or fire conditions. These types of alarms are not considered as “false” alarms as defined in the towns and county ordinance.
2. **Category II Alarms:** These are considered “false alarms.” Any alarm requiring a fire department response under the following conditions:
  - a. **System Malfunction:** Any alarm caused by poor or improper maintenance or poor or improper installation of alarm equipment, hardware, or wiring. An improper action by the alarm monitoring center shall also be considered a system malfunction.
  - b. **User Error:** The act or omission of an agent, employee or contractor of management.
3. **Undetermined Cause:** Any alarm which, after investigation by the fire department, does not reveal the apparent cause of the alarm. If the alarm system owner, or their agent, can provide proof of cause within two (2) working days from the alarm time, the fire department may re-evaluate the assessment.
4. **Malicious Alarm:** These are considered “false alarms.” Any alarm caused by a malicious or mischievous action.
  - a. These alarms are unlawful. The individual responsible for a malicious alarm(s) may be subject to criminal action as defined in the Colorado Revised Statutes and be responsible for the cost of the response to the alarm.

## **Section 2 - Excessive Alarm Rate Based on Type of Violations:**

- 2.1 **Commercial Occupancies:** Any fire alarm system found to have more than one (1) Category II or Malicious alarms, as defined in this resolution, in a calendar year shall be considered in violation of this resolution. An excessive alarm fee shall be charged to the owner of that fire alarm system.
- 2.2 **Residential Occupancies:** Any residential occupancy found to have more than one (1) Category II or Malicious alarms, as defined in this resolution, shall be considered in violation of this resolution. An excessive alarm fee shall be charged to the owner of said property.
- 2.3 **New Construction:** Any new construction site found to have more than one (1) Category II or Malicious alarms, as defined in this resolution, shall be considered in violation of this resolution. An excessive alarm fee shall be charged to the owner of said property.

## **Section 3 – Fees:**

3.1 **Fees:** The fees authorized by this resolution shall be set and adjusted as necessary by the Alarm Administrator with the approval of the Summit County Communications Center Board in amounts reasonably related to offsetting the cost to the Alarm Administrator for administering the provisions of this chapter. The Alarm Administrator shall keep an annual account of all fees by type and amount that are generated hereunder. All fees authorized hereunder shall be collected and disbursed pursuant to the intergovernmental agreement between the Town and Summit County. In addition to other remedies authorized by this chapter, the Alarm Administrator may refuse to dispatch law enforcement response to an activated intrusion/burglary type alarm at any Alarm Site for which fees accruing under this chapter have been invoiced to the Alarm Site owner and not timely paid, unless there is an in-person call for assistance from someone at or near the Alarm Site that verifies the need for an immediate law enforcement response. Governmental entities shall be exempt from paying any fees authorized pursuant to this chapter.

3.2 **Rebate Eligibility:** Within fifteen days after the date of the notice, the Alarm Site owner or Alarm Business either follows the instructions provided on the notice of violation or mails a written response to the Alarm Administrator requesting a waiver and clearance as a warning.

The Alarm Site owner or Alarm Business may present evidence before the Alarm Administrator or in the written response that shows:

- i. the steps that the Alarm Site owner or Alarm Business has taken, or is taking, to correct the False Alarm problem;
- ii. the incidence of crime in the area of the Alarm Site;
- iii. the facts and circumstances of the False Alarm.
- iv. any other relevant information

3.3 **Failure to Pay Fees:** It shall be a misdemeanor offense for any person to violate any provisions of this chapter. Any person convicted of having violated any provision of this chapter shall be punished as set forth in the town's or county's ordinance.