



City of Lumberton
Emergency Services Department
911 Emergency Communications Division

Dear Alarm Subscriber,

The City of Lumberton has an alarm ordinance (Ordinance Number 1331, SEC.15-84) that covers all alarms including those monitored and unmonitored. The ordinance explains that each location may have up to six (6) false alarms during a January to December calendar year, but each false alarm over the six (6) will have a \$25.00 fine administered. The ordinance explains what is considered a “countable” false alarm and those that are not.

The number to give the alarm monitoring company is 910-671-3888 or 910-671-3889. These are the administrative telephone numbers for the City of Lumberton E911-Communications Center, the center that dispatches Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services within the city limits.

Each month, letters are mailed to those locations that have false alarms so they may correct the problems/malfunctions before the seventh (7) alarm activation occurs. We are requesting that you fill out the last page and either mail it back or drop it off at our location at the address below. The City appreciates your cooperation in regards to the alarms and wishes to provide you with the most prompt response possible. If you have any questions, please call 910-671-3888 and we will assist in every way possible.

ARTICLE V. ALARM SYSTEMS

Sec. 15-81. Definitions

Unless otherwise specifically provided, or unless clearly required by the context, the words and phrases defined in this section shall have the meaning indicated when used in the article.

ALARM: *Means any electronic or mechanical device which emits any signal, whether electronic, audible, silent or recorded and which is designed, intended or used for the detection of any unauthorized intrusion or an attempted intrusion into a building, structure, or premises or to signal an actual or attempted robbery or the existence of a fire. "Alarm" shall include any device which initiates a telephone call and delivers a recorded message to any emergency telephone number assigned to the Communications Department; any procedure by which a third party telephones any emergency telephone number and requests Police or Fire Department service on the basis of having received an automatic alarm signal from a subscriber of such person or alarm business represented by such person; or an audible signal or siren that when sounded is detected by a third party that results in a Police or Fire Department response.*

FALSE ALARM: *Means the activation of a burglary, robbery, fire or other alarm for the purpose of summoning the Police or Fire Department, or which causes the Police or Fire Department to be summoned, at a time when no emergency, fire, or crime is being committed or attempted on the premises.*

(1) False alarms include those caused by:

- a. **Error or mistake:** Any action by any person, firm or corporation, or other entity or agency thereof, owning or operating any dwelling, building or place, which results in the activation of any alarm system when no emergency exists.*
- b. **Malfunction:** any activation of any alarm system caused by a flaw in the normal operation, design, installation, maintenance of the system, by faulty equipment, or by a change in the environment or premises upon or within which the alarm system is operating.*
- c. **Intentional misuse:** Any intentional activation of an alarm system when no burglary, robbery, vandalism, or fire or other emergency is in progress.*

(2) *An alarm will not be considered a false alarm if it is determined that the alarm was caused by:*

- a. Natural or manmade catastrophe, or an act of God. Such events include tornadoes, floods, earthquakes or other similarly violent conditions.*
- b. Vandalism causing physical damage to the premises.*
- c. Telephone line outage.*
- d. Attempted entry of a location causing visible, physical or other evidence of damage to said location.*
- e. Severe weather causing physical damage to premises.*
- f. The testing of a local/audible alarm system by a licensed alarm business agent or employee who is present at the premises servicing, repairing or installing the alarm when such testing does not result in the alarm being activated for an uninterrupted period exceeding sixty (60) seconds.*

SUBSCRIBER: *Means any person, firm, corporation or partnership owning or leasing an alarm system, or on whose premises an alarm system is maintained for the protection of such premises or property.*

(Ord. No. 1331, 4-27-92)

Sec. 15-82. Registration of alarms

(a) No subscriber shall operate, or permit to be operated, an alarm system unless he shall have registered the alarm system with the 911 Communications Department. Registration shall be on a form provided by the City and shall set forth the following information:

- 1. The name, address and telephone number of the subscriber.*
- 2. The street address of the property in which the alarm system is installed, as well as the name of business, if any, for which the alarm system is top provide security.*
- 3. Whether the alarm system is a local alarm and what types of emergency the system is intended to respond to.*
- 4. The name of the individual or firm that installed the system.*
- 5. The name and telephone number of at least two (2) persons who have agreed to receive twenty-four (24) hour notification of alarms, can come to the alarm site within fifteen (15) minutes after receiving a request from the City to appear and who can grant access to the alarm site and deactivate the alarm system. In lieu of the names of two (2) individuals, the subscriber may furnish the name of a company engaged in the business of receiving alarms. If an alarm company is*

used, it must be able to receive notification of alarms on a twenty-four (24) hour basis, and it must be able to provide an operative at the alarm site, within fifteen (15) minutes of notification by the city, who can grant access to the property and who can deactivate the system.

- (b) *A registration form for each alarm system shall be filled at the least annually. The subscriber shall be responsible for assuring that all information provided to the 911 Communications Department is current and valid. Any changes, including changes in the names of persons or companies to be notified, shall be made in writing to the 911 Communications within seventy-two (72) hours of the time the change is made.*
(Ord. 1331, 4-27-92)

Sec. 15-83. Continuing audible alarms.

All audible alarms must be cutoff and cease to sound after fifteen (15) minutes of continuous alarm monitoring. Alarms installed after effective date of this shall be equipped with an automatic cutoff device which shall cease the sounding of the alarm after fifteen (15) minutes of continuous activation unless requirements, in which event cessation shall occur no later than after thirty (30) minutes of continuous activation. An alarm that sounds continuously in excess of fifteen (15) minutes from the time the Police or Fire Department arrives at the alarm location shall constitute a violation of this article. Every subsequent sixty-minute (60) period following the initial fifteen (15) minutes during which the alarm continues to sound shall constitute a separate violation. The subscriber will be assessed a ten dollar (10) civil penalty for each sixty (60) minute period of continuous operation of an alarm, not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for any twenty-four hour period.
(Ord. No. 1331, 4-27-92)

Sec. 15-84. False Alarms.

If, within any twelve (12) consecutive month period, the Police or Fire Department responds to six (6) false alarms at the same premises or location, the Communications Director or his designee, shall send a letter to the subscriber informing him of the false alarms and requesting that he initiate action to stop further false alarms and informing him of consequences of continued false alarms, specifically the civil penalty fee. There will be no fee assessed for the first six (6) false alarms within a twelve (12) consecutive month period. Beginning with the seventh (7) false alarm, a civil penalty citation shall be issued to the subscriber for each additional false alarm. The provisions of this section shall not apply to premises or locations whereupon an institutional occupancy, as defined by the North Carolina State Building Code, is sited.
(Ord. No. 1331, 4-27-92)

Sec. 15-85. Penalty.

- (a) Each citation issued shall impose upon the person cited, a civil penalty of Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) which shall be paid to the city within Fourteen (14) days of issuance in full satisfaction of the assessed civil penalty. If the civil penalty is not paid within the time prescribed in the citation, the City may initiate a civil action in the nature of debt to collect such civil penalty.***
- (b) Any violations of this article in which a civil penalty is not prescribed shall be a misdemeanor as provided in North Carolina General Statutes Section 14-4.***