



FALSE ALARM REDUCTION PROGRAM SUMMARY FALSE ALARM ORDINANCE NO. 1379

False alarms cost the City of Bonney Lake and its citizens thousands of dollars per year and can take police officers away from actual emergencies. To prevent unnecessary emergency response to false alarms, the False Alarm Ordinance was adopted to reduce the number of false alarms and encourage alarm users to maintain the mechanical reliability of and to properly use their alarm equipment.

On February 22, 2011 the City of Bonney Lake, Washington amended the false alarm ordinance. Ordinance No. 1379, established requirements for business and residential monitored burglar alarms.

Annual Permit Fee

- ▶ Commercial and Residential - \$24
- ▶ Seniors - \$12 (Residential only) (Proof may be required)
 - Requirements – Must be 65 years old
 - Is the owner of the residence or resides at this location as the principal tenant
 - Occupies the residence as his or her primary residence
- ▶ Permanent Disability - \$12 (Residential only)
 - Requirements – At least 30 percent disability
 - Is the owner of the residence or resides at this location as the principal tenant
 - Occupies the residence as his or her primary residence

- ▶ Operating a non-permitted alarm system will be subject to an additional fee(s).

False Alarm Service Fees

Definition of a false alarm: Activation of an alarm system through mistake, mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, lack of prudent maintenance or through the negligence of the occupant of the residence and/or building in which the alarm system is located, including their employees or agents. False Alarm shall also mean any activation of an alarm system which indicates a crime or situation other than that which it was designated to indicate, or in the case of fire alarm, any condition not resulting from a fire or potential hazard. An intruder alarm triggered by an animal from the outside of the building where the alarm is located shall constitute a false alarm.

False Alarm Fees:

- Burglary – \$100
- Robbery – \$200

Additional Information

- All permit fees, renewal fees, service fees or fines assessed under this ordinance are due within thirty (30) days of written notice unless otherwise noted.
- Do not call 9-1-1 or Bonney Lake's Police Department to cancel your alarm. Only your monitoring center can cancel the alarm dispatch request once made.
- Cancellation of a burglar alarm response prior to an officer arriving at the alarm site will not count as a false alarm.
- Information on your right to appeal shall be provided with each notice of a false alarm.

For Information Contact:

ATB Services
1-877-356-7884
Fax 719-634-6325

www.atbservices.com/BonneyLake



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What Can You Do To Prevent False Alarms?

- Instruct all alarm users on the proper operation of your alarm system.
- Secure all windows and doors before activation.
- Keep pets, balloons, fans, heaters, plants, curtains, seasonal decorations, etc. away from motion sensor areas.
- Know and rehearse the process to cancel an accidental alarm.
- Notify your alarm company of any changes in responsible parties or problems with your system immediately.
- Have your alarm system checked annually by your alarm company.
- Battery backup should be checked annually or after a storm-related false alarm.

Some Common Problems That Cause False Alarms:

- Weak alarm system backup batteries
- Open, unlocked, or loose fitting doors and windows
- Helium-filled balloons
- Wandering pets
- Improper application or installation of motion detectors
- Failure to properly train other users

Bonney Lake has contracted with Alarm Tracking and Billing Services (ATB Services) of Colorado Springs, Colorado to administer the False Alarm Reduction Program.

ATB Services Duties

ATB Services to track and bill for an estimated 240 yearly false alarms; coordinate with approximately 50 alarm companies and monitoring centers in and out of state; process 450 annual permits; provide all the computer software and upgrades required; create online sites for Police Department officials, alarm users and alarm companies to review their respective alarm information; record remittances; assist with appeal filing; provide for online payments; accommodate alarm users with toll-free customer service support; and develop an educational online alarm school to help reduce the number of false alarms that require law enforcement response.

When you purchase a private security alarm system or contract to have a private security system monitored by a security alarm business licensed by the city you are entering into a private contract with that business only. Your security alarm purchase and/or monitoring contract is not a contract with the City of Bonney Lake, its Police Department or with any other law enforcement agency.

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