

CHAPTER 13

Regulation of Alarm Systems

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SEC. 7-13-1 TITLE.

This Chapter shall be known as the Village of Prairie du Sac Alarm Systems Chapter.

SEC. 7-13-2 DECLARATION OF PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide minimum standards and regulations applicable to burglar, fire and holdup alarm systems, alarm business and alarm users. Both society in general and public safety in particular will be aided by providing a system of private security, which properly balances quick response by law enforcement with minimization of law enforcement time spent on alarms which are false or otherwise not the intended function of private security systems.

History: Code of Ordinances 1986. Sec. 7-13-2 repealed and recreated. Ordinance No. 7, Series of 2003.

SEC. 7-13-3 DEFINITIONS.

Within this chapter, the following terms, phrases and words and their derivations have the meanings given herein:

- (a) The term "alarm business" means any business in which the owners or employees engage in the activity of altering, installing, leasing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, selling, or servicing alarm systems.
- (b) The term "alarm system" means an assembly of equipment and devices or single device such as a solid-state unit which plugs directly into 110-volt AC line or otherwise receives electrical energy arranged to signal the presence of a hazard requiring urgent attention and to which the Police or Fire Department is expected to respond. In this chapter, the term "alarm system" shall include fire(smoke or heat activated or incidence activated) alarms, intruder alarms (vibration sensor, motion detection, infra-red or manually activated), environmental conditions (humidity, temperature, gas detection or other conditions) alarms. Excluded from this definition and from the coverage of this chapter are alarm systems used

to alert or signal persons within the premises in which the alarm system is located, of an attempted, unauthorized intrusion or holdup attempt, or fire.

- (c) The term "annunciator" means the instrumentation on an alarm console at the receiving terminal of a signal line through which both visual and audible signals show when an alarm device at a particular location has been activated, or which, in the event of malfunction, may also indicate line trouble.
- (d) The term "answering service" refers to a telephone answering service providing among its services the service of receiving on a continuous basis through trained employees, emergency signals from alarm systems, and thereafter immediately relaying the message by live voice to the dispatch center of the Police or Fire Department or the Sauk County Sheriff's Department.
- (e) The term "automatic dialing device" refers to an alarm system which automatically sends over regular telephone lines by direct connection or otherwise, a prerecorded voice message or coded signal indicating the existence of the emergency situation that the alarm system is designed to detect.
- (f) The term "direct connect" means an alarm system which has the capability of transmitting system signals to the Police or Fire Department or the Sauk County Sheriff's Department dispatch center.
- (g) The term "false alarm" means the activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, or the negligence of the owner or lessee of an alarm system, or of his employees or agents or other undetermined cause. False alarm does not include alarms caused by tornadoes, or other violent climatic conditions.
- (h) The term "interconnect" means to connect an alarm system to a voice grade telephone line, either directly or through a mechanical device that utilizes a standard telephone, for the purpose of using the telephone line to transmit an emergency message upon the activation of the alarm system.
- (i) The term "central station" means an office to which remote alarm and supervisory signaling devices are connected, where operators supervise the circuits.
- (j) The term "primary trunk line" means a telephone line leading directly into the dispatch center of the Police or Fire Department that is for the purpose of handling emergency calls on a person-to-person basis and which is identified as such by a specific number included among the emergency numbers listed in the telephone directory, or numbers in sequence therewith.
- (k) The term "subscriber" means a person who buys or leases or otherwise obtains an alarm system and thereafter contracts with or hires an alarm business to monitor and/or service the alarm system.

History: Code of Ordinances 1986. Sec. 7-13-3 repealed and recreated. Ordinance No. 7, Series of 2003.

SEC. 7-13-4 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.

The Chief of Police and Fire Chief shall promulgate such rules as may be necessary for the implementation of this chapter, as it pertains to their departments. Such rules shall require the approval of the Village Board and shall be open to inspection by the public.

History: Code of Ordinances 1986. Sec. 7-13-4 repealed and recreated. Ordinance No. 7, Series of 2003.

SEC. 7-13-5 DIRECT CONNECTIONS TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Direct connections to the Sauk-Prairie Police Department or Fire Department are prohibited.

SEC. 7-13-6 TESTING.

- (a) No alarm business or alarm system designed to transmit emergency messages to the Police or Fire Department shall be tested or demonstrated without prior notification of the Police or Fire Department dispatcher or the Sauk County Sheriff's Department dispatcher. Alarm business or alarm system owners or lessors will be advised on proper test procedure.
- (b) No alarm system relayed through intermediate services to the Police or Fire Department or the Sauk County Sheriff's Department will be tested to determine the Police or Fire Department's or Sauk County Sheriff's Department's response without first notifying the appropriate authority.

SEC. 7-13-7 NOTIFICATION.

When the service provided by an alarm business to its subscribers is disrupted for any reason by the alarm business, or the alarm business becomes aware of such disruption, it shall promptly notify its subscribers by telephone that protection is no longer being provided. If, however, the alarm business has written instructions from its subscriber not to make such notification by telephone during certain hours, the alarm business may comply with such instructions.

SEC. 7-13-8 FEE FOR ANSWERING ALARMS.

- (a) There is hereby imposed a fee for law enforcement and/or fire department response to any alarm resulting from the activation of an alarm system, except when law enforcement finds that an unauthorized person is on the premises or the fire department finds a fire or hazardous condition, or that there is fresh evidence of forceful entry or attempted forceful entry. The fee for the law enforcement and fire department response shall be as stated from time to time in the Schedule of Fees periodically approved by the Village Board. There shall be no fee for the first and second response in any calendar year. The responding officer shall have discretion in the imposition of fees, for the third and all further responses in that calendar year. The fee is inapplicable when the alarm is caused by a tornado, or other violent climatic conditions.
- (b) There is hereby imposed a fee for on-site fire protection services provided to structures during the period of time the structure's fire suppression and/or alarm system is not operational. The Fire Chief shall have discretion to not apply the fee where the on-site fire protection service is provided for a period of less than one (1) hour.
- (c) The fees imposed pursuant to the Section 7-13-8 are imposed whether the Police or Fire Department or Sauk County Sheriff's Department receives the alarm by direct notice or through an intermediary such as an answering service or central station. Fees imposed shall be charged a minimum of one (1) hour then for each increment of fifteen (15) minutes or fraction of thereafter. Failure to pay the stated fee within thirty (30) days of receipt of the bill shall be grounds for a refusal of police or fire services in regards to future alarms being received and notice shall be given the occupant of the property ten (10) days before declining to respond to further alarms. However, before notice of any refusal or "No Service" is given, the Chief of Police, or Fire Chief shall receive approval from the Village Board. The Village may also place the fee on the tax roll of the subject parcel, as a "special charge" pursuant to Sec. 66.0627, Wis. Stats.

SEC. 7-13-9 VILLAGE LIABILITY.

The Village of Prairie du Sac shall be under no duty or obligation to a subscriber or to any other person concerning any provision of this Chapter, including but not limited to, any defects in an alarm system or any delays in transmission or response to any alarm; however, this in no way shall be construed that it is not the proper function of law enforcement to respond to alarms.

SEC. 7-13-10 PERMITS FOR PRIVATE ALARM SYSTEMS.

- (a) PERMIT REQUIRED. A permit is required for each private alarm system on premises within the Village. There shall be an annual minimum permit fee as stated in the Schedule of Fees, payable to the Village of Prairie du Sac. Such permits shall annually expire on January 1st.
- (b) INTERIOR ALARMS. A permit under this Chapter is not required for an alarm system which gives a signal, visual or audible or both, solely within the interior of the building in which it is located.
- (c) ISSUING AUTHORITY. The issuing authority for permits shall be the Village Administrator.
- (d) APPLICATION. Application for permit required under this Chapter shall be filed with the Village Administrator. The Village Administrator shall prescribe the form of the application and request such information as is necessary to evaluate and act upon the permit application. The Village Administrator, after consulting with the Chief of Police or Fire Chief, shall deny a permit if the alarm system for which it is sought does not comply with this Chapter.
- (e) APPEAL. Any person required by this Chapter to have a permit who has been denied such a permit by the Village Administrator shall have a right to appeal that decision to the Village Board. The procedure for this appeal shall be as set forth in Section 7-13-11(c).

History: Code of Ordinances 1986. Sec. 7-13-10 repealed and recreated. Ordinance No. 7, Series of 2003.

SEC. 7-13-11 REVOCATION OF PERMITS.

- (a) HEARING. Before a permit issued pursuant to this Chapter may be revoked, a hearing shall be held before the Village Administrator, with input from the Chief of Police or Fire Chief. Notice setting forth the time, place and nature of the hearing shall be sent by mail or delivered to the permittee at the address shown on the permit application not less than seven (7) days prior to the hearing.
- (b) GROUNDS FOR REVOCATION. The Village Administrator may revoke a permit on the following grounds:
 - (1) The application for a permit contains a false statement of a material fact.
 - (2) A licensee has repeatedly failed to comply with the provisions of this Chapter. (3) An alarm system repeatedly actuates false alarms.
- (c) APPEALS. Any permittee may appeal the decision of the Village Administrator by filing a written notice of appeal with the Administrator within ten (10) days after the decision. Such appeal shall be heard by the Village Board within thirty (30) days after filing the appeal. The Village Board may affirm, amend or reverse the decision or take other action deemed appropriate. An appeal timely taken suspends the revocation until the Board gives its

decision. The Administrator shall give written notice of the time and place of the hearing to the appellant by certified mail or personal delivery not less than seven (7) days before the hearing. In conducting the hearing, the Village Board shall not be limited by the technical rules of evidence.

History: Code of Ordinances 1986. Sec. 7-13-11 repealed and recreated. Ordinance No. 7, Series of 2003.

SEC. 7-13-12 PENALTIES.

- (a) Any person who shall violate any Section of this Chapter shall be subject to a penalty as provided in Section 1-1-6 of this Code of Ordinances
- (b) When any premises located in the Village is owned, leased, or occupied by two (2) or more persons as joint tenants, tenants in common, joint lessees, or in any other manner, each person shall see that the provisions of this Chapter are complied with, and each person may be subjected to a penalty on violation of this Section.
- (c) In addition to payment of false alarm fees as provided in Section 7-13-8, any person using a private alarm system whose false alarm requires a response to the premises by Police Department or Village personnel in excess of 5 instances in a 12 month period, shall be subject to penalties as provided for in Section 1-1-6 of this Code of Ordinances.

History: Code of Ordinances 1986. Sec. 7-13-12 repealed and recreated. Ordinance No. 7, Series of 2003.