

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE  
BURGLAR/ PANIC/ FIRE ALARMS**

**SECTION I – TITLE**

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as “Ordinance Regulating Alarm Systems” and is authorized pursuant to RSA 31:39(I).

**SECTION II – DEFINITIONS**

- A) **Alarm Owner** – Any natural person, legal entity, corporation or association that has an alarm system located or in operation upon premises that they own, or that exercises actual control over such alarm system, or that has the legal right to exercise control over such alarm system.
- B) **Alarm System** – Any assembly of equipment and devices arranged to signal the presence of a hazard requiring urgent attention and to which public safety personnel and equipment are expected to respond. This shall include any type of signal, whether conveyed via noise, electronically, telecommunications equipment, or otherwise, and shall include fire alarm system or an alarm system that summons the police, but does not include a motor vehicle alarm system.
- C) **False Alarm** – The activation of an alarm through mechanical failure, accidental tripping, misoperation, malfunction, misuse; or the neglect of the owner of an Alarm System or its agents or employees. A False Alarm shall not include alarms caused by storms or external causes beyond the control of the Alarm Owner.
- D) **Knox Box** – A secured box attached to the premises which contains the keys to the premises which is accessed only by a secured key and is utilized by the Fire Department.
- E) **Monitoring Company** – a person or entity which, as a business or for a fee, monitors signals produced by an Alarm System and reports these alarms to the Town’s Police or Fire Department.

**SECTION III - AUTOMATIC DIALING DEVICES:**

- A) No automatic dialing device utilizing a recorded voice message shall be interconnected to any telephone number at the Police or Fire Department after the effective date of this ordinance.
- B) No later than six (6) months after the effective date of this ordinance, all existing automatic dialing devices utilizing a recorded voice message interconnected to any telephone number at the Police or Fire Department shall be disconnected. The Alarm Owner of each device shall be responsible for having the device disconnected.

#### **SECTION IV – CENTRAL MONITORED ALARM SYSTEMS**

- A) Every Alarm Owner shall provide its Monitoring Company with the official 911 address for the premise being alarmed.
- B) Every Alarm Owner shall submit to the Monitoring Company the names and telephone numbers of at least two persons other than the owner, who can be reached day or night and who are authorized to respond to an emergency signal transmitted by an alarm system, and who can open the premises wherein the alarm system is installed.
- C) Alarm Owners are strongly encouraged to utilize a Knox Box secured key to prevent the Fire Department from making forcible entry in case of an alarm and no key holder being readily available. Knox Box applications are available from the Fire Chief.
- D) Not later than six (6) months after the effective date of this ordinance, all alarm systems which use an audible horn, siren or bell, shall be equipped with a device which will automatically shut off such horn, siren or bell within thirty (30) minutes after activation.
- E) The Alarm Owner or the alarm installation company must notify in writing both the Police and Fire Departments of the installation of an Alarm System within five (5) days of the installation which notification shall include: i) property owner's name, ii) property address, iii) property owner's permanent address, iv) property owner's telephone numbers, v) installer's name, company, phone number and address, vi) installer's phone number, vii) Monitoring Company's name and phone number and viii) name and phone number of two persons who will respond to the premises within thirty (30) minutes in the event of an alarm activation. Any changes in the information required above shall be reported in writing to the Police and Fire Departments within five (5) days of the change.
- F) For existing Alarm Systems already installed, the Alarm Owner must make the notifications in Section IV-E, no later than six (6) months after the effective date of this ordinance.

#### **SECTION V - FALSE ALARMS - WARNINGS AND PENALTIES**

- A) After the Police and/or Fire Department have recorded three (3) False Alarms within a calendar year, notification will be made to the Alarm Owner by Certified U.S. Mail, return receipt requested to the Alarm Owner's last known address of such fact. The Alarm Owner shall respond in writing within fifteen (15) days after receipt of such notice, describing efforts to discover and eliminate the cause of the False Alarms.
- B) If after the mailing of a notice of three (3) False Alarms is issued (regardless of a return receipt] and another False Alarm is received within the same calendar year, the Alarm Owner shall be guilty of a violation and subject to a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for the first False Alarm in excess of the above-

mentioned three (3) in a calendar year and Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) for each subsequent False Alarm in excess of four (4) during a calendar year.

- C] Any Alarm Owner who violates the provisions of this Ordinance, except as provided by Section V-B (False Alarms), shall be guilty of a violation and subject to a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).
- D] Any person who directly or indirectly causes a false alarm, knowing that no emergency or other situation exists which requires or justifies a response by public safety personnel, shall be subject to the penalties provided in RSA 644:3, 644:3-a and 644:3b.

*Version 9.18.08*