



## Park County Fire Protection District No. 2

1125 11<sup>th</sup> Street • Cody, Wyoming 82414

Phone: 527-8550

POLICY # 40

TITLE: FALSE ALARMS

DATE: JANUARY 30, 2017

REVISED: MAY 9, 2019

**PURPOSE:** Both the public and responding fire district personnel are subjected to needless danger when fire personnel are called on to respond to false alarms. In addition, the responding personnel and equipment are not available to respond to true emergencies. The purpose of this policy is to reduce the number of false fire alarms.

**OBJECTIVE:** The objective of this policy is to encourage alarm users and alarm businesses (including sales, installation, and monitoring businesses), to maintain the operational reliability and the proper use of alarm systems so as to limit unnecessary false alarms.

**FALSE ALARM:** Any request for emergency assistance caused by other than an actual emergency situation including, but not limited to, malicious intent, the activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, or negligence of the owner, his tenant, his employees or agents, or his alarm system provider.

**SERVICE FEE:** All premises within the fire district are subject to service fees for fire department responses to false alarms. The service fees apply to any commercial, educational and child care center premise which has three (3) or more false alarms in one (1) year. **ALARM COMPANIES AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:** Testing, servicing and other maintenance by an alarm company, service company or technician provided to customers which results in a false alarm response, shall be subject to an automatic false alarm fee of \$500.00.

3 <sup>rd</sup> false alarm response within a year after the first alarm	\$500
5 <sup>th</sup> false alarm response within a year after the first alarm And any subsequent false alarms after.	\$1,000 each

A service of \$500 will be assessed for residential alarm system that has five (5) or more false alarms in one (1) year.

WAIVER OF FEES: The responding fire officer in charge (Fire Operations) has the discretion to decide if an alarm was due to a cause not reasonably within the control of the owner, the tenant or the owner's alarm provider. The fire officer will note this on the Field Incident Report.

The owner may also apply for a waiver of fees to: Park County Fire District No. 2  
1125 Eleventh Street  
Cody, Wyoming 82414

This request shall include written documentation from the owner's alarm provider that the reason for the false alarm has been identified and corrected and that regular maintenance is being performed. The Board of Directors of Park County Fire District No. 2 may waive fees based on information received from the owner or they may also choose to reinstitute fees if additional false alarms occur.

COLLECTION OF FEES: The Fire District Office will mail a copy of this policy after they receive a field incident report for a false alarm. Upon the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) or fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) response to a property dependent on the classification due to a false alarm within one (1) year, the Fire District Office will invoice the owner for that response and any subsequent responses for a false alarm. If the property owner fails or refuses to make payment in thirty (30) days after being billed, Park County Fire District will pursue collection in Civil Court. If payment of an invoice is not made, each subsequent alarm will be at the rate of SERVICE FEES per alarm until the invoice is paid.

#### HELP PRECAUTIONS:

- Notify your alarm company prior to any testing or service work.
- Cover detectors during construction projects and contact your alarm company.
- Detectors may need to be moved or changed to heat detectors if they are too close to kitchens or showers.
- Ensure your alarm company has a list of key holders with phone numbers in case the system goes into trouble mode. 911 should only be notified for an actual alarm activation.

  
Chairman of the Board

  
Administrator