

To: Home owners with Residential Fire Detection Systems  
From: Thomas Jenson, Fire Marshal  
Subject: False Fire Alarm Responses

In accordance with Edina City Code, Section 635, False Fire Alarm Responses, and Section 185, Fees and Charges, The Fire Prevention Bureau began in 1999 actively billing for false fire alarms in both residential and commercial buildings. The Edina City Council amended ordinance 635.02 in November 2003 decreasing the number of allowable false alarms to one before fees incur.

**[Section 635.01 defines a false alarm as: “A false alarm shall mean the receipt of and emergency response by the Fire Department of an audio or visual alarm or signal from an automatic fire alarm device set off by causes other than the occurrence of a fire.**

**Section 635.02 defines the fee schedule as: “A fee in the amount set forth in Section 185 of this code (\$300.00 for residential) shall be payable to the City for the second and each subsequent false alarm within a twelve month period. The fee for a false alarm shall be payable by the owner of the building or premises from which the false alarm was received and shall be payable within ten days after a statement therefore is mailed or delivered by the City.]**

It is for your safety and the safety of your occupants that activation of a fire alarm is given the respect and attention it is due. Responding to false fire alarms exposes both the community and emergency personnel to risk and it uses resources that may be needed elsewhere or for medical and other emergencies.

The cause of a false alarm shall be determined immediately and any repairs that are needed be completed immediately. It is the goal of the Fire Prevention Bureau to decrease the number of fire alarm malfunctions and unintentional alarms through proper placement of smoke detectors and regular maintenance. There are things that you can do to prevent a false fire alarm. If a construction company is going to create dust that will set the smoke detectors off, have your fire alarm monitoring company put your system in test during the construction period. If a fire alarm contractor is going to work on your system, make sure your monitoring company puts your system in test.

The National Fire Alarm code (1999 edition NFPA 72, Section 8-4.3.2) allows the fire alarm monitoring company, upon receiving a fire alarm signal from a residence, **to call the residence first** to see if there is an actual fire and a need for fire department response. This gives the homeowner the opportunity to cancel the fire department for burnt food, steam from the shower, or construction dust before the fire department is notified. If no contact is made or an improper code is given within 90 seconds of the fire alarm then the fire department is dispatched to the residence. This would greatly reduce the number of false fire alarms reported to the fire department. Contact your fire alarm company and have them call you first to help reduce the number of false fire alarms reported.

Thank you for your co-operation and if you have any questions, please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 952-826-0378.

To: Building Owners and Property Managers with Commercial Fire Detection Systems  
From: Thomas Jenson, Fire Marshal  
Subject: False Fire Alarm Responses

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**[Section 635.01 defines a false alarm as: “A false alarm shall mean the receipt of and emergency response by the Fire Department of an audio or visual alarm or signal from an automatic fire alarm device set off by causes other than the occurrence of a fire.**

**Section 635.02 defines the fee schedule as: “A fee in the amount set forth in Section 185 of this code (\$500.00 for commercial) shall be payable to the City for the second and each subsequent false alarm within a twelve month period. The fee for a false alarm shall be payable by the owner of the building or premises from which the false alarm was received and shall be payable within ten days after a statement therefore is mailed or delivered by the City.]**

It is for your safety and the safety of your occupants that activation of a fire alarm is given the respect and attention it is due. Responding to false fire alarms exposes both the community and emergency personnel to risk and it uses resources that may be needed elsewhere or for medical and other emergencies.

The cause of a false alarm shall be determined immediately and any repairs that are needed be completed immediately. It is the goal of the Fire Prevention Bureau to decrease the number of fire alarm malfunctions and unintentional alarms through proper installation and regular maintenance. It is required by the Minnesota State Fire Code to have a maintenance contract and annual inspections, maintenance and testing of your fire detection system. If a fire alarm or sprinkler contractor is going to work on your system, make sure your monitoring company places your system in test during the work. If a construction or cleaning company is going to create dust that will set the smoke detectors off, have your fire alarm monitoring company put your system in test during the construction period.

Thank you for your co-operation and if you have any questions, please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 952-826-0378.