

# Security/Fire Alarm Registration Required

## History of the Alarm Ordinance

Because the overwhelming majority of alarms reported in the Marvin area are false activations, the Village of Marvin Council adopted a False Alarm Ordinance on April 17, 2007. This ordinance was adopted in an effort to reduce the number of false alarms that emergency personnel respond to. It allows for the registration of alarms and establishes fines for three or more violations within the same calendar year.

*Each year, false alarms cause an unnecessary burden to emergency services personnel. If officers are responding to false alarms, they may be delayed in responding to true emergencies, which puts us all at risk.*

## What is a false alarm?

False Alarm. The activation of an alarm system with the transmission of an alarm signal through any of the following:

The negligence of the alarm user, his employees or agents, mechanical or electronic failure, malfunction, or improper installation *unless the alarm is cancelled by the alarm user or his agent before emergency personnel arrive.*

A false alarm does NOT include:

An alarm caused by violent weather conditions or nature, circumstances where the alarm user reasonably believed an emergency situation was present, other extraordinary circumstances not reasonably subject to

control by the alarm user, or an alarm system testing procedure if the alarm user first notifies and receives permission from all emergency response agencies.

## Tips to Prevent False Alarms

- ❖ Register your alarm system.
- ❖ Know the procedures your alarm company wants you to use to cancel a false alarm.
- ❖ Make sure that anyone who has a key to your premises is fully trained to use the system, especially your children! This means that they know how to arm and disarm the system.
- ❖ CLOSE and LOCK your doors and windows (BEFORE activating your alarm if possible). This reduces the chance that the alarm will activate if friends, neighbors or customers enter or if the wind pushes a door or window open. *Unlocked doors are the main cause of false alarms.*
- ❖ Restrict your pets to areas without motion detectors. Pets often jump or climb into view of motion detector sensors. Consider disarming your motion detector if your pets have free run of the house when the alarm is on.
- ❖ Check your system's batteries. If the batteries do not work properly, neither will your alarm system. Batteries should be replaced every 3-4 years.

- ❖ Know that motion detectors can be activated by drafts from fans and air conditioners which cause movement of helium balloons, decorations, curtains, etc. Move these items away from drafts or secure them when using motion detectors.

## Registering Your Alarm

Beginning January 1, 2008, all homeowners and business owners having an alarm system that draws public attention, whether or not it is monitored, are required to register their alarms. (There is no charge for this.)

There are two easy ways for you to register:

- 1) **Register on-line at [www.marvinnc.org](http://www.marvinnc.org)**  
On the left of the screen, click on "Register your Security Alarm" or
- 2) Call our office to have a form mailed or faxed to you. (704) 843-1680

## Your Alarm Company's Responsibility

In an effort to reduce false alarms, your alarm company is required by the ordinance to take certain measures:

- Your monitoring company must attempt to verify alarms by contacting the alarm site before requesting law enforcement dispatch.
- If your monitoring company determines during verification that the alarm is false, they must attempt to cancel officer dispatch.
- Communicate any available information about the location of the alarm.
- Provide alarm user registration number.

## Fees and Fines

There is no charge to register your alarm system with the Village of Marvin. Below are the violation charges which are billable to alarm users. Remember, fees apply ONLY if emergency personnel arrive on the scene and the alarm is FALSE.

### Fines for Response to False Alarms *Within the Same Calendar Year*

1 <sup>st</sup> False Alarm	\$0
2 <sup>nd</sup> False Alarm	\$0
3 <sup>rd</sup> False Alarm	\$50
4 <sup>th</sup> False Alarm	\$50
5 <sup>th</sup> False Alarm	\$50
6 <sup>th</sup> False Alarm	\$100
7 <sup>th</sup> False Alarm	\$100
8 <sup>th</sup> False Alarm	\$200
9 <sup>th</sup> False Alarm	\$200
10 <sup>th</sup> or more	\$500

This brochure is a brief summary of the False Alarm Ordinance. The full Ordinance is available at the Village Hall or at [www.marvinnc.org](http://www.marvinnc.org) under the "Ordinances" tab.



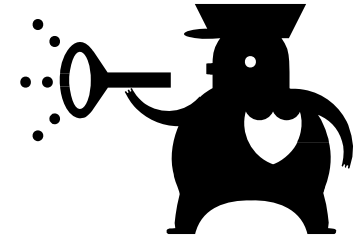
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[www.marvinnc.org](http://www.marvinnc.org)

The Village of Marvin  
False Alarm Ordinance

# Village of Marvin False Alarm Ordinance



Information you need to  
know if you have an Alarm  
System in your home or  
business!

