

FIRE ALARM ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, this jurisdiction finds that a high incidence of False Fire Alarms and/or N

WHEREAS, this jurisdiction finds that the continued high incidence of False Fire Al

WHEREAS, this jurisdiction finds that the procedures and Fees for multiple False Fir

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF POLK

SECTION 1. Purpose

- A. The purpose of this Ordinance is to encourage Owners and Alarm Businesses to
- B. This Ordinance governs Fire Alarm Systems intended to summon fire personnel,
- C. This Ordinance does not govern the individual homeowner installing his own f

SECTION 2. Definitions

As used in this Ordinance, the following words and terms shall have the following me

- A. Adopted Code(s) means code adopted by the jurisdiction and in the absence of
- B. Alarm Business means any individual, partnership, corporation or other entit
- C. Alarm Initiating Device means a device that is designed to respond either ma
- D. Fire Alarm System means a system or portion of a combination system consisti
- E. Commercial concerning business, marketing
- F. Enforcement Official means the Fire Chief or their designated representative
- G. False Fire Alarm means the activation of any Fire Alarm System which results
- H. Fee means the assessment of a monetary charge payable to the County, Enforce
- I. Fire Alarm Activation Report means a document issued by the Enforcement Offi
- J. Monitored System means the process by which an Alarm Business receives signa
- K. Nuisance Fire Alarm means the activation of any Alarm System, which results
- L. Owner means any person who owns the Premises in which a Fire Alarm System is
- M. Premises mean any building, structure or combination of buildings and struct
- N. Qualified Alarm Technician means any person who inspects, installs, repairs
- O. Record of Completion means the completion of a form equivalent to the record
- P. Registration means the notification by an Owner to Polk County Communication
- Q. Report of Service/Repair means appropriate documentation in a format accepta
- R. Serve shall mean hand-delivery of written notification by a representative o

SECTION 3. Registration of Fire Alarm System

- A. A one-time Registration shall be required for Fire Alarm Systems and whenever
- B. Upon receipt of a completed registration form a Fire Alarm Permit shall be i
- 1. The Owner shall be assessed a fee of \$100.00 if he fails to register an alar
- C. The Owner shall be required to re-register whenever there is a change in the
- D. Registrations shall not be transferable from one Premise to another or from
- E. Every Alarm Business shall notify the Polk County Communications Office of t
- F. The Registration form shall include the following information:
  - 1. The name(s), address of the Premises, mailing address (if different from the
  - 2. The name, address and telephone number of a minimum of two (2) persons who c
  - 3. The name, address and telephone number of the Alarm Business which has contr
  - 4. The date the Registration is signed or the Fire Alarm System is placed in op
  - 5. Any other documentation that is required by the Adopted Codes.
- G. When any of the information required in Section 3(F) (1), 3(F) (2), or 3(F) (3)
- H. The Owner shall complete and deliver the Alarm System Registration in the re

SECTION 4. Inspection, Testing and Maintenance

- A. The Owner shall ensure that all Fire Alarm Systems are inspected and tested
- B. The Owner shall ensure that all Fire Alarm Systems are periodically maintain

SECTION 5. Fire Alarm Activation; Response

- A. The Owner shall be responsible for the activation of a Fire Alarm System.
- B. A response to the activation of a Fire Alarm System shall result when any of

- 1. At the time of response, the Enforcement Official shall notify any person id
- 2. In the event the Fire Alarm System is a Monitored System, it is the responsi
- 3. In the event the household Fire Alarm System is a Monitored System, it is th
- C. The officer or member of the public service agency who responded to said Pre

SECTION 6. Nuisance Fire Alarms

- A. In the event the activation of a Fire Alarm System is deemed by the Enforcem

SECTION 7. Service Fees

- A. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to any newly installed Fire A
- B. Should any Fee assessed pursuant to this Ordinance remain unpaid in excess o
- C. Fees should be paid according to established policy (See Appendix B-Service
- D. False Fire Alarm
  - 1. No fee shall be assessed for the first two (2) False Fire Alarms at the same
  - 2. The Alarm Business shall be assessed a Fee of (See Appendix A - Service Fees
  - 3. False Fire Alarms activated by any components connected to the Fire Alarm Sy
  - 4. The activation of an Fire Alarm System will not be considered a False Fire A
  - 5. The following fees shall be assessed for False Fire Alarms:

Number of False Fire Alarms	Service Fee Per False Fire Alarm
First to Second	0
Third	\$50.00
Fourth	\$100.00
Fifth and above	Doubles each time

E. Nuisance Fire Alarms

- a. The following fees shall be assessed when a Report of Service/Repair has bee

Number of False Fire Alarms	Service Fee
First to Second	0
Third	\$50.00
Fourth	\$100.00
Fifth and above	Doubles each time

- b. In the event the Premises are equipped with an Alarm System with over one hu

SECTION 8. Remedies and Penalties

- A. The Enforcement Official shall have the authority to direct the Owner of the
- B. Anyone convicted of falsifying reports as required under this Ordinance is s

SECTION 9. Confidentiality

Any information supplied to the Enforcement Official shall be held in confidence by

SECTION 10. Appeal

- A. Any fire alarm user who has been assessed a penalty or whose application for
- B. Failure to perfect an appeal within the time and in the manner provided for
- C. Appeal of decisions render by the Polk County Chief's Association will be as

SECTION 11. Government Immunity

Registration of a Fire Alarm System is not intended to, nor will it, create a contra

SECTION 12. Severability

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If a court determines a word, phras

Section 13. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20

Tommy Melton, Chairperson

## APPENDIX A: Service Fees

Description	Reference	Cost
Failure to register an Alarm	3(B)(1)	\$100.00
False Alarm caused by an On Site Alarm Company Employee	7(C)(2)	\$50.00
Service Fee - 1st Fire Alarm	7(C)(5)	\$0
Service Fee - 2nd Fire Alarm	7C)(5)	\$0
Service Fee - 3rd Fire Alarm	7C)(5)	\$50.00
Service Fee - 4th Fire Alarm	7C)(5)	\$100.00
Service Fee - 5th Fire Alarm	7C)(5)	\$200.00
Service Fee - 6th and Above Fire Alarm	7C)(5)	Doubles each time
Service Fee - 1st Nuisance Alarm	7D)(1)	\$0
Service Fee - 2nd Nuisance Alarm	7D)(1)	\$0
Service Fee - 3rd Nuisance Alarm	7D)(1)	\$50.00
Service Fee - 4th Nuisance Alarm	7D)(1)	\$100.00
Service Fee - 5th Nuisance Alarm	7D)(1)	\$200.00
Service Fee - 6th Nuisance Alarm	7D)(1)	Doubles each time
Registration Fee	3	\$5.00
Re-Registration Fee	3	\$5.00

## Appendix B: Service Fee Policy

POLK COUNTY  
FIRE ALARM ORDINANCE

## SERVICE FEE POLICY

## I. BACKGROUND/PURPOSE:

This policy was written and implemented to establish appropriate guidelines for the

## II. POLICY

It is the policy of Polk County that payment is due within thirty days of a fee being

## III. PROCEDURE:

1. The primary fire department responding to the fire alarm will be responsible
2. If at the time of the respond the fee is unknown, this portion of the ticket
3. The ticket may be left on scene with the occupants, and/or the owner, and/or
4. If there is no one on scene to accept the ticket, it will be sent by certifi
5. A copy of the ticket will stay with the fire department completing the ticke
6. All payments made by check, must be made out to the Fire Department assessin
7. All payments will be sent to Polk County Communications, Post Office Box 308
8. Registration fees will be paid to Polk County Communications.
9. Fees paid for "Failure to register a Fire Alarm" will be paid to Polk County
- A. \$50.00 or ½ of the fee will go to the fire department responsible for primar
- B. \$50.00 or ½ of the fee will go to the Chief's Association Fund.
10. Polk County Communications will be responsible for verifying fee assessed, c
11. Any fee unpaid in excess of ninety (90) days from the date Fee is billed, wi
12. If will be the responsibility of the Polk County Board of Commissioners and