

## CHAPTER 91: ALARM SYSTEMS

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### § 91.01 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning:

**ALARM BUSINESS.** Any business operated for profit which engages in the activity of altering, installing, leasing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, selling, servicing or responding to a burglary or holdup alarm system or fire alarm or which causes any of these activities to take place.

**ALARM EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS.** Any person, firm or corporation that sells, leases or installs signaling devices which, upon activation, either automatically or manually will transmit an alarm.

**ALARM SYSTEMS.** Any signaling device which is electronically operated and which automatically sends visual and audible signals over a signal line to be registered by indicators at a monitor panel in a receiving terminal of the Police Department and Fire Department and/or alarm companies' receiving location, or which sends via telephone line to the Police or Fire Department a recorded message of a burglary, holdup or fire.

**ALARM USER.** Any person on whose premises an alarm system is maintained within the village.

**FALSE ALARM.** The activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation or the negligence of the owner or lessee of an alarm system or of his employee or agents. **FALSE ALARM** does not include alarm signals activated by violent conditions of nature, telephone line interruptions, acts of God or other extraordinary circumstances not reasonably subject to control by the alarm business installer or alarm user.

**LOCAL ALARM SYSTEM.** An alarm system that produces an audible signal at the premises protected.

**RECEIVING AGENCY or CENTRAL STATION.** An office to which remote alarm and supervisory

signaling devices are connected, where trained and experienced personnel are in attendance at all times to supervise the circuits and investigate signals.

**SINGLE STATION SMOKE DETECTOR.** An assembly incorporating the smoke detector control equipment and the alarm-sounding device in one circuit, operated from a power supply either in the unit or at the point of installation.

**VILLAGE ALARM CONTRACTOR.** The alarm company contracted by the village for installation and maintenance of the Police or Fire Department monitoring systems.

('69 Code, § 96-10) (Ord. 0-83-14, passed 5-9-83; Am. Ord. 0-87-46, passed 11-23-87)

### § 91.02 MONITORING SYSTEM.

The Village Manager is authorized to contract for the installation of a uniform monitoring system to receive visual and audible signals over a line at a central location. This system shall have a capacity to meet present needs and the ability to expand for future needs and shall be available to any subscriber who meets the requirements for a permit for connection as defined in this chapter.

('69 Code, § 96-20) (Ord. 0-83-14, passed 5-9-83)

### § 91.03 APPLICATION FOR PERMIT BY ALARM USERS.

(A) Each person within the village who wishes to install in his home, place of business or other premises an alarm system subsequent to the effective date of this chapter, which is connected to the Police Department, Fire Department or an alarm company's receiving agency, or which automatically directly dials the Police Department, or which automatically dials the Fire Department or which produces an audible signal at the premises, other than a single station smoke detector, shall obtain an installation permit for each separate alarm system he/she wishes to connect.

(B) Application for installation permits for each separate alarm system shall be filed with the Police Department on forms supplied, along with a permit fee of \$100, and such permits shall be approved by the Village Manager or his designee. Each alarm user who has a new alarm system shall be entitled to three inspections by the village without charge. The charge for each subsequent inspection shall be \$50.

(C) There shall be an annual registration fee of \$25 for each alarm system not directly connected to Police or Fire Department alarm response systems. For those alarm systems directly connected to Fire or Police Department alarm response systems, there shall be an annual registration fee of \$50. A \$150 fee will be charged for each fire or burglary system directly connected to Police and Fire Department alarm response systems.

(D) A \$100 fine will be charged to a homeowner or occupant for each Police or Fire department response to an alarm emanating from an alarm system which is not in compliance with the annual registration fee.

(E) The permit fee shall be due and payable to the village immediately before work on the alarm system commences. There shall be no refund of any portion of this fee. The village shall reserve the right to waive the alarm user installation permit fee in cases where the alarm system is included in building permit fees.

(F) Each person within the village who has installed in his home, place of business or other premises an alarm system which is connected to the Police or Fire Departments or to an alarm company's receiving agency or which automatically dials the police or Fire Departments or which produces an audible signal at the premises, other than a single station smoke detector, shall obtain a permit for each separate alarm system he has connected.

(G) Applications for permits for each separate alarm system in place shall be filed with the Building Department on forms supplied and such permits should be approved by the Village Manager or his designee. There shall be no charge for said permit.

(H) The application for an alarm system user permit shall include the name, address and telephone numbers of the alarm user and the type of business organization (individual, partnership or corporation. If a partnership, the names and addresses of the partners and if a corporation, the names and addresses of the principal officers and the state where incorporated shall be included.

(I) The issuance of a permit shall in no way constitute a warranty of the signaling device involved and issuance of said permit shall be specifically subject to the village's disclaimer of liability as detailed in this chapter and further detailed in Section 2-206 of the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, Chapter 85, Illinois Revised Statutes, 1981.

(J) The alarm user applicant shall provide a "hold harmless" statement with the application. It will contain the following wording:

"In consideration of the issuance of a permit for the installation of the requested alarm system or local alarm system the owner-applicant herein on behalf of himself and his co-workers, if any, his heirs, Administrators, executors and assigns, hereby releases the Village of La Grange, a municipal corporation, its officers, employees and alarm monitoring contractor, from any and all liability, suits, judgments, claims of any kind or nature, including attorneys' fees and court costs arising or which may arise from the use, utilization or maintenance of said alarm system upon the premises at (address), whether such claim is brought by the applicant or any third party or entity and the applicant further agrees to defend any legal action, whether it is based on an allegation, jointly or severally, against the Village of La Grange, a municipal corporation, its officers, employees and alarm monitoring contractor, for any action or non-action on their parts."

(K) The permit holder shall pay the alarm equipment installer for all equipment at their location and connection fees for connection to the monitoring system and maintenance charges necessitated by the installation, operation and maintenance of signaling devices in the monitoring system. The company supplying and maintaining the monitoring system shall have the right to charge subscribers or their equipment installer a reasonable fee for connection to and maintenance of the system. ('69 Code, § 96-40) (Ord. 0-83-14, passed 5-9-83; Am. Ord. 0-84-15, passed 4-9-84; Am. Ord. 0-87-46, passed 11-23-87; Am. Ord. 0-94-27, passed 4-25-94)

**§ 91.04 DIRECT CONNECTION ALARMS.**

(A) The village may revoke or suspend any permit issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter

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after giving written notice to the holder and an opportunity for the permit holder to comply within 10 days or less if it is determined that the alarm system under said permit has been installed, maintained or operated in violation of the provisions of this chapter or of any terms or conditions of said permit.

(B) The village shall have the right to inspect any alarm system on the premises where it is intended to be used, both prior to and subsequent to the issuance of a permit, at reasonable times, to determine whether a permit should be granted and whether it is being used in conformity with the terms of the permit and as provided by the village code of ordinances and/or the current fire prevention code adopted by the village.

(C) There shall be no testing or demonstrating alarm systems without first notifying the village, in accordance with procedures established by the Village Manager, prior to such test or demonstration and obtaining permission of the Village Manager or such person delegated by him. Any activation due to a test or demonstration without said notice and permission shall be deemed a false alarm. The village shall be notified in writing by the alarm installer of the expected completion date of the initial installation, major alteration or addition of an alarm system, prior to completion of said work.

(D) Each person, firm or corporation holding a permit for the operation and maintenance of an alarm system shall be responsible for any false alarms transmitted by the device which they operate or maintain. The village shall maintain a record of all false alarms so transmitted and, pursuant to the required notice and opportunity to be heard, may revoke or suspend the permit for the operation of the alarm system involved in the transmission of two false fire alarms or four false burglar alarms in any one fiscal year or may make reasonable charges therefor.

(E) The village shall charge a fee of \$50 for each false fire alarm to the owner or occupant of any single-family or two-family residential premises and \$200 for each false fire alarm to the owner or occupant of all other premises for each automatic alarm transmitted to the village or other approved receiving agency by activation on the premises of an automatic or manual alarm system in excess of two fire alarms in each fiscal year from the premises, and a fee of \$25 for each false burglar alarm in excess of four in any one fiscal year. Charges shall be payable to the village by the user permit holder upon receipt of a statement for such charge.

(F) No charge shall be imposed for false alarms for 60 days after initial installation or 30 days after major alterations or additions, nor shall false alarms during that period be counted toward the false alarms allowed per fiscal year provided the owner or occupant give written notice to the Fire Department (fire alarms) and/or the Police Department (burglar alarms) 15 days prior to installation or the start of alterations.

(G) Every alarm user shall be entitled to a hearing before the Village Manager and finance officer or designated agents of each of said officers, for each false alarm. At the hearing, the alarm user will be given the opportunity to present evidence and argument to show that the alarm activation comes within one of the permissible exceptions. The hearing should be requested within five days after the false alarm.

(H) The village shall take every reasonable precaution to assure that alarm signals received by the village are given appropriate attention and are acted upon with dispatch.

(I) The village and Village Alarm Contractor shall not be liable for:

(1) Any defects in the operation of the signaling systems.

(2) Any failure or neglect of any person in connection with the installation and operation of equipment.

(3) Transmission of false signals and the relaying of such signals.

(J) In the event that the village finds it necessary to disconnect a defective signaling device the village shall incur no liability by such action.

('69 Code, § 96-50) (Ord. 0-83-14, passed 5-9-83; Am. Ord. 0-92-28, passed 4-25-94; Am. Ord. 0-92-42, passed 6-8-92)

**§ 91.05 AUTOMATIC DIALER-TYPE ALARMS.**

(A) The procedures and requirements for automatic dialer-type alarms shall be the same as for direct connection alarms except as herein provided.

(B) The village shall provide distinct and separate trunk lines, apart from emergency telephone trunk lines, for the exclusive use of automatic dialer-type burglar and fire alarms and only those lines may be used.

(C) Where private fire alarm equipment arranged to automatically transmit a signal to the Fire Department over commercial telephone facilities is in use a separate, unlisted telephone line(s) shall be used to receive such signals. The private equipment shall not be permitted to automatically connect to the emergency telephone lines.

('69 Code, § 96-60) (Ord. 0-83-14, passed 5-9-83)

**§ 91.06 LOCAL ALARM SYSTEMS.**

(A) The procedures and requirements for local alarm systems shall be the same as for direct connection alarms except as hereinafter provided.

(B) Every local alarm system installed subsequent to the effective date of this chapter shall be constructed, equipped and installed in such fashion as to be incapable of sounding for more than 30 minutes after a signal activation thereof. Local alarm systems installed prior to the effective date of this chapter are permitted. However, the village shall charge \$100 to the owner or occupant of the premises whose local alarm system sounds for a more than 30 minutes after the Police Department is notified of said alarm.

(C) All single station smoke detectors that are installed in a home, place of business or other premises shall be exempt from this chapter.

('69 Code, § 96-70) (Ord. 0-83-14, passed 5-9-83)

**§ 91.07 ALARM USERS OUTSIDE CORPORATE LIMITS OF VILLAGE.**

(A) The procedures and requirements for alarm users outside the corporate limits of La Grange shall be the same as for alarm users within the corporate limits of La Grange, except as hereinafter provided.

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(B) Each non-residential alarm user outside the corporate limits who wishes to install on his or her place of business or other premises an alarm system which is connected directly to the Police or Fire Departments shall pay the village \$50 per month for each separate alarm system he or she has connected and \$500 per police or fire call.

(C) Users will execute full and unconditional releases to the village and will hold it harmless.  
( '69 Code, § 96-75) (Ord. 0-84-26, passed 6-25-84)

**§ 91.99 PENALTY.**

Whoever violates any provision of this chapter shall be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$500 for each offense. Each day that such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.  
( '69 Code, § 96-80) (Ord. 0-83-14, passed 5-9-83)