

CHAPTER 973  
Emergency Alarms

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CROSS REFERENCES

Making false alarms - see GEN. OFF. 509.07

Alarm businesses and agents - see S.U. & P.S. Ch. 971

**973.01 AUTHORITY TO INSTALL ALARM.**

Any residence or lawful business located within the City may be equipped with an emergency alarm for the purpose of detecting and signalling the presence of a fire or unauthorized intrusion upon compliance with this Title Seven. Existing installations shall be subject to the requirements of this Title Seven. (Ord. 120-76. Passed 11-22-76.)

**973.02 ALARMS CONNECTED DIRECTLY TO POLICE STATION OR FIRE STATION.**

(a) Upon proper application by any person to connect installed equipment with the Rocky River police station or fire station to receive emergency alarms, the Safety-Service Director or his authorized representatives may issue a permit or permits for such connection.

(b) Connection to the police alarm panel or fire alarm panel, as provided for in this Section shall be contingent upon an applicant having obtained permission from the company which maintains the alarm panel in the police station or fire station to make such connection. Permission shall not be denied provided equipment is compatible, and provided charges are paid to such company, and provided such installation is inspected and approved by the Chief of Police or the Chief of Fire or their authorized representatives.

(c) The City shall, within its capabilities, endeavor to accommodate every reasonable application for connection to the police or fire alarm panels, as provided for in this Section. (Ord. 120-76. Passed 11-22-76.)

973.03 ALARMS CONNECTED TO A CENTRAL ANSWERING SERVICE OR ALARM COMPANY.

A permit shall be required for the installation of an alarm connected to or which transmits a signal to a central answering service, company or facility which in turn notifies the Police or Fire Divisions of such signal or alarm. This permit must be obtained by the property owner, property lessee or property tenant, in addition to any such permits obtained by the alarm company, answering service or its agency.

(Ord. 5-82. Passed 2-8-82.)

973.04 LOCAL ALARMS.

A permit for the installation of a local alarm which, when activated, sounds a horn, bell, buzzer or other type of audible alarm, shall be required if the sound created by the alarm is audible beyond the premises being served. The Safety-Service Director or his authorized representative shall issue a permit for such an alarm, provided the intensity of the sound does not exceed sixty-five (65) decibels at any location outside the premises being served. (Ord. 120-76. Passed 11-22-76.)

973.05 FALSE ALARMS.

(a)(1) A charge as set forth in Section 1321.05 of the Codified Ordinances shall be assessed for each false alarm received through equipment described above, or for each false alarm received through any other alarm service which the City has given permission to be installed. Such fee shall be assessed against the holder of the permit for the alarm with which the false alarm is associated.

(2) A charge as set forth in Section 1321.05 of the Codified Ordinances shall be assessed for each false alarm received by the telephone from a central station or alarm company answering service. Such fee shall be assessed against the alarm company with which the false alarm is associated.

(b) Notwithstanding the fee to be assessed as set forth above, there shall be no charge for a false alarm to which there is no response by the Police or Fire Division, or when the cause has been proven to be an act of God, or for the first false alarm from any location shall only receive a warning and shall not assessed a charge. (Ord. 5-82. Passed 2-8-82.)

(c)(1) Any charge for a false alarm, as provided for in Subsection (a)(1) hereof, which remains unpaid thirty (30) days after date of invoice, shall result in the cancellation of the permit.

(2) Any charge for a false alarm, as provided for in Subsection (a)(2) hereof, which remains unpaid thirty (30) days after the date of invoice, shall be grounds for revoking or refusing a renewal or granting of an alarm dealer's license.

(Ord. 120-76. Passed 11-22-76.)

**973.06 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**

- (a) All equipment used in installations for which a permit is required shall meet the applicable standards of the Underwriters Laboratories and/or the National Fire Protection Association, and/or other recognized industry standards. An applicant may be required to submit evidence of the reliability and suitability of the equipment to be installed.
- (b) The sensory mechanism used in connection with such devices shall be adjusted to suppress false indications of fire or intrusion, so that the devices will not be activated by impulses due to transient pressure change in water pipes, short flashes of light, wind noises such as rattling or vibrating of doors or windows, vehicular noises adjacent to the installation, or other forces unrelated to genuine alarms.
- (c) All components comprising such a device shall be maintained by the owner or lessee in good repair to assure reliability of operation.
- (d) Each alarm equipment supplier that sells or leases to a person an automatic protection device which is installed on such person's premises in the City shall furnish that person with instructions as to the way the device operates, along with maintenance instructions.
- (e) Each alarm equipment supplier shall also supply the Chief of Police and/or Chief of Fire with a copy of the instructions as to the way the device operates. If the Police or Fire Chief find such to be incomplete, unclear or otherwise inadequate, he may require the alarm equipment supplier to have the same revised to meet his approval and then promptly have copies distributed to persons for whom installations of such devices are made.
- (f) Each alarm equipment supplier that sells or leases to a person an automatic protection device which is installed on such person's premises in the City for which a permit is required shall provide for receiving calls for service, directly or through an agent, on a twenty-four (24) hour basis, seven (7) days a week, and shall respond to such calls within eight (8) hours of the time they are received.
- (g) At the time of installation, each alarm equipment supplier shall furnish to the person for whom an automatic protection device has been installed, written information as to how service can be obtained at any time, including the telephone number to call for service; and such person shall be responsible for having the device repaired as quickly as possible after he learns, either from his own sources or from notification by the City, that the device is not working properly.

(h) The Chief of Police and the Chief of Fire or any officer designated by them shall have the authority, at reasonable times and upon oral notice, to enter upon any premises within the City, to inspect the installation and operation of an automatic protection device or signaling device, the purpose of which is to report an emergency to the police and/or fire station.

(i) All equipment, the use or installation of which is subject to this Title Seven, shall be maintained in good operating condition. The Chief of Police and/or the Chief of Fire may require that repairs be made whenever he has determined that such are necessary to assure proper operation.

(j) For violation of this Title Seven, for failure to properly maintain an installation or when the number of false alarms for any installation equals ten (10) in any twelve (12) month period, the Chief of Police and/or Chief of Fire shall serve written notice upon a permit holder of intent to revoke his permit. Such notice shall be given not less than seven (7) days prior to revocation. Such notice shall state the right of the permit holder to appeal to the Safety-Service Director. If an appeal is filed in writing, the Director shall hold a hearing on the matter and shall render a decision on the basis of the facts presented. The Director's decision shall be final. In the event no appeal is filed, the Chief of Police and/or the Chief of Fire shall transmit all pertinent information to the Director who shall cancel the permit. The Chief of Police and/or the Chief of Fire shall take whatever steps are necessary to disconnect the alarms. (Ord. 120-76. Passed 11-22-76.)

#### 973.07 LIABILITY OF CITY.

The issuance of any permit or permits in conjunction with this Chapter shall not constitute acceptance by the City of any liability to maintain any equipment, to answer alarms, or for anything in connection therewith. (Ord. 120-76. Passed 11-22-76.)

#### 973.08 RULES AND REGULATIONS.

The Safety-Service Director or his authorized representative shall make and enforce such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of this Title Seven, and for the proper determination and collection of the fees and charges herein provided. (Ord. 120-76. Passed 11-88-76.)

#### 973.09 PERMIT AND INSPECTION FEE.

A fee as set forth in Section 1321.05 of the Codified Ordinances shall be paid to the City for each permit issued as provided herein, to cover administrative and inspection costs. Such permit shall not be transferable and shall be renewable each year during the month of original issuance of the permit. There shall be no fee for renewal. (Ord. 5-82. Passed 2-8-82.)

**973.99 PENALTY.**

Whoever violates any provision of this Chapter shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor for the first offense. Whoever violates any provision of this Chapter shall be guilty of a fourth degree misdemeanor for the second offense or subsequent offenses.

(Ord. 5-82. Passed 2-8-82.)