

REGISTRATION IS ON
AN ANNUAL BASIS

MINNETONKA FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE

The Minnetonka Fire Department is primarily a paid-on-call fire department; therefore, there are significant non-fixed payroll costs associated with response to fire alarm calls. **On March 1, 2004, the City Council implemented a \$250.00 charge for each fire department response to an automatic fire alarm EXCEPT fire sprinkler water flow alarms.** There will also be no charge for residents reporting a fire alarm sounding when it is reported through the 9-1-1 system. Minnetonka Fire records indicate that there has never been a situation where the first report of fire has been via central station notification of a fire alarm (except fire sprinkler water flow).

***RESPONSE TO FIRE ALARMS
WILL NEVER BE SUSPENDED.***

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CITY OF MINNETONKA

POLICE & FIRE ANNUAL ALARM REGISTRATION 2010



FALSE ALARMS

The rate of false alarm calls within the city continues to decrease, but there is still an on-going concern with less than 1% resulting in actual crimes or medical situations.

- One alarm call ties up two (2) officers and a dispatcher for approximately 20 minutes.
- In 2009 the Minnetonka Police Department received 2,339 calls for alarm service.
- 143 Panic & Medical Alarms, 36 Hold-Up Alarms, and 196 Fire Alarms.
- 1,057 business alarms resulting in seven (7) actual burglaries.
- 907 residential alarms resulting in one (1) actual burglary.

LEADING CAUSES OF FALSE ALARMS

- ✓ Poor installation or defective equipment;
- ✓ Improper use of the alarm, customer error or negligence;
- ✓ Lack of proper maintenance.

In order to control false alarms, it is important to eliminate these causes.

Remember to check your alarm system and train your family members or employees in proper alarm usage.

ANNUAL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

Under Minnetonka City Ordinance 915.030, all business and homeowners must register their alarm system. The annual cost is \$10.00.

ALARM ORDINANCE SUMMARY

IF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO AN UN-REGISTERED ALARM SYSTEM, A NOTICE WILL BE LEFT. WE HAVE THE AUTHORITY AT THAT TIME TO NOT RESPOND TO FUTURE INTRUSION ALARMS UNTIL THE SYSTEM IS REGISTERED.

The Chief of Police has the right to suspend response to an alarm if:

- The alarm user has incurred three (3) or more false alarms within one calendar year.
- An alarm user has not paid fine charges under City Ordinance section 915.030 within 30 days after receiving written notification.

The Police Department will respond to two false alarms per address per year. Upon the third false alarm, a \$50 fine will be imposed. Subsequent false alarms will increase by \$50 for each response. **Past due fines may result in a lien against property taxes.**

REINSTATEMENT OF SUSPENDED ALARM

In order to reinstate an alarm system, an alarm user must demonstrate that they have taken corrective action on the system (or user) problems, and paid all outstanding fees.

Alarm suspensions will continue indefinitely until all outstanding fines are paid.

RESPONSE TO MEDICAL, PANIC, HOLD UP OR FIRE ALARMS WILL NEVER BE SUSPENDED!

REGISTRATION STICKER

Once the application and registration fee are received, the user will be given a sticker to display so officers will know the alarm has been registered through the police department. **Sticker colors change on an annual basis.**