

Town of New Marlborough

Alarm Regulations

Section 1. Definitions

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ALARM SYSTEM - Any alarm device which automatically dials the emergency telephone number of the Police, Fire Department or other emergency service to alert that an emergency exists or that the services of that department are needed or which transmits an alarm to the town's alarm monitoring system. "Alarm system" shall also mean any alarm device which automatically emits an audible, visual or other response upon the occurrence of the hazard or emergency and is intended to alert persons outside the building and/or any person who in turn notifies the Police and/or Fire Department to the existence of said hazard or emergency.

DIAL ALARM OR DIALING DEVICE - Any fire, police or emergency alarm device which is a telephone device or telephone attachment which automatically or electronically selects a telephone line connected to the Police, Fire Department or dispatch center and reproduces a prerecorded message to report a criminal act or other emergency requiring police, fire or emergency response.

FALSE EMERGENCY ALARM - Any signal actuated by an emergency alarm to which the Police or Fire Department responds which is not the result an emergency.

EMERGENCY NUMBER - Any telephone number designated by the Police or Fire Chief as a telephone number through which members of the public may report an emergency or request public assistance.

Section 2. Dialing Devices Restrictions/Compliance

A. All dialing devices operated by automatic means shall transmit messages only to such numbers as may be designated for that purpose by the Police and/or Fire Department of the town.

B. After six (6) months following the effective date of this chapter, no person shall use, operate or install any device which will, upon activation by automatic means, initiate the dialing, calling or other connection with the Police and/or Fire Department of the town, either at its regularly constituted telephone number or any other number which may be designated by said Police or Fire Department as a police/fire emergency number, without a permit issued by the Board of Selectmen.

C. No person shall use, operate or install any dialing device that will, upon activation, automatically dial, call or connect with the telephone number designated by the Chief of Police and/or Fire Chief for the purpose of receiving such alarm messages, more than twice for any one (1) incident.

D. Any system installed on or after the effective date of this chapter must comply with this chapter. Preexisting installations must comply within six (6) months of the effective date of this chapter.

Section 3. Mandatory Alarm Delay

A. Upon the activation of a burglary (break-in) alarm, there shall be a mandatory delay of at least fifteen (15) seconds before the transmission of a signal to the Police Department to enable the user to abort the signal in the event that it was triggered inadvertently.

B. This delay shall not be applicable to a robbery (holdup), fire or medical emergency alarm.

C. Any system installed on or after the effective date of this chapter must comply with this section. Preexisting installations must comply within six (6) months of the effective date of this chapter.

Section 4. Timing Devices

The user of every alarm system emitting an audible, visual or other response shall, at the time such system is installed or within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Article in the case of existing systems, install or cause to be installed an automatic timing device which shall deactivate such alarm so that it will be activated for no more than fifteen (15) minutes.

Section 5. Information to be Filed

A. The user of every alarm system maintained in the town, except those installed in motor vehicles, shall within ten (10) days of the installation thereof or within sixty (60) days of the enactment of this chapter, file the following information with the Police Department of the town:

(1) The type of alarm system.

(2) The street address and the nearest cross street of the building which houses the alarm.

(3) In the case of a commercial premises, the name, address and telephone number of an authorized representative and/or an alternate who will be able to respond when called by police to deactivate the alarm system, if necessary.

(4) In the case of a private residence, the name, address and telephone number of a person who is not a resident of the private residence in question and who will be able to deactivate the alarm system.

B. Such filing requirements are not applicable to all alarm systems, whether the same are or are not directly connected to the Police, Fire Department or dispatch center or are merely audible alarms. Such filing must be made within the time period

specified above even though there shall have been previous notification of the existence of such alarm systems to the Police and/or Fire Department or other department of the town.

Section 6. Permit Fees

A. The Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to grant a revocable permit to any owner, lessee or occupant of property located in the town to operate, maintain, install or modify a police or fire alarm device, and no such device shall be operated unless such permit shall have first been issued.

B. The Board of Selectmen shall charge a fee of **\$25.00** for the issuance of such permits, which are to be renewed annually. Permits will expire on December 31 of each year.

Section 7. Revocation

(1) A permit issued pursuant to this chapter may be revoked at any time or from time to time by the Board of Selectmen upon the giving of ten (10) days' notice, in writing, by registered or certified mail, to the permittee, sent to the address shown on the permit. (2) The violation of this chapter shall constitute grounds for the revocation of the permit.

Section 8. False alarms

A fee will be charged as listed below for each response by the Fire and/or Police Department to any building/residence in which an alarm malfunction or alarm activation is caused by the occupant or persons having control of the building/residence. The Police/Fire Chief or senior officer making an alarm response shall determine whether the alarm was a malfunction by the alarm system or accidental activation. After a third response in a twelve month period, the permit shall be revoked by the Board of Selectmen until the alarm system has been recertified by a reputable installer of alarms.

First Offense:	\$0.00
Second Offense:	\$25.00
Third offense:	\$50.00

Section 9. Disconnection

In the event that an alarm system emitting an audible, visual or other similar response shall fail to be deactivated within the time limitation specified in Section 4 above, the town shall have the right to take such action as may be necessary in order to disconnect any such alarm.

Section 10. Violations and penalties

Any person operating an alarm system without a permit from the Board of Selectmen violates the provisions of this chapter and shall be subject to a fine of **\$100.00** for each offense.