



FALSE ALARM FEE for SERVICE POLICY

POLICY GOALS

The “False Alarm Fee for Service” policy has been designed to accomplish the following goals:

- Reduce the number of preventable and unwarranted false alarm responses by Estevan Fire Rescue.
- Implement a ‘Cost Recovery’ structure for preventable false alarm responses.
- Decrease the risk of motor vehicle collisions with Fire Department apparatus, thereby increasing the level of safety for responding Firefighters and the motoring public.
- Increase the awareness level of both home and building owners that operate monitored fire alarm systems.
- Ensure monitored fire alarm systems are receiving the required inspections and testing.
- Reassure the public that a full response by Estevan Fire Rescue will be initiated upon activation of any fire alarm system.

POLICY DEFINITIONS

1. *False Alarm* – The activation of a fire alarm system by causes other than the products of combustion from an uncontrolled fire.
2. *Preventable False Alarm* – The activation of a fire alarm system by the unnecessary or needless release of smoke, heat, dust, or other airborne particulate, and shall include activation by deficient or defective system components.

3. *Unwarranted False Alarm* – The activation of a fire alarm system by avoidable actions of a building owner, their agent, contractor, tenant, employee, or any other person legally permitted to enter or occupy the building.
4. *Monitored Fire Alarm System* – Any fire alarm system that is electronically supervised, either on or off site, by the building owner or through an independent contractor or agency, capable of sending a signal of an alarm activation to the responding Fire Department.

POLICY GUIDELINES

1. The Fire Chief (or designate) shall investigate the cause of each false alarm, and shall establish if the alarm was warranted or preventable.
2. A fee for service may be applied to:
 - (a) a premature dispatch to a false alarm by an alarm monitoring agency,
 - (b) a false alarm that has been established as preventable or unwarranted,
 - (c) a false alarm initiated by faulty or defective system components,
 - (d) Reoccurring false alarms received within a 12 month period.
3. Fees for service levied upon a property shall not exceed:
 - (i) The fee for service for the first response to an unwarranted false alarm be \$300.00
 - (ii) The fee for service for the second response to an unwarranted false alarm within a 12 month period, be \$325.00
 - (iii) The fee for service for the third response to an unwarranted false alarm within a 12 month period, be \$350.00
 - (iv) The fee for service to any further responses to an unwarranted false alarm within a 12 month period, be \$350.00
 - (v) A response to the Rural Municipalities serviced by EFR shall remain at the hourly rate included in the current Fire Service Agreements established with the City of Estevan,
 - (vi) The service fee increases to be effective April 1, 2014.
4. The property owner shall be responsible for any fee for service levied on that property.
5. False alarms that are initiated maliciously are regulated by the Criminal Code of Canada and will be dealt with accordingly by the Estevan Police Service.
6. Fees levied for false alarms generated from the surrounding Rural Municipalities shall be in accordance with the agreements previously established with the City of Estevan.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL RESOLUTION #: 2014-069 DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2014
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