

## CHAPTER 8

### Village of Caledonia Alarm Systems Ordinance

(2013-11 – 07/01/13)

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#### **SEC. 5-8-1 TITLE**

This Chapter shall be known as the Village of Caledonia Alarm Systems Ordinance.

#### **SEC. 5-8-2 DECLARATION OF PURPOSE.**

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide minimum standards and regulations applicable to burglar, fire and holdup alarm systems, alarm businesses and alarm users. Both society in general and public safety in particular will be aided by providing a useful and usable system of private security which properly balances quick response by public safety personnel with minimization of public safety personnel time spent on alarms which are false or otherwise not the intended function of private security systems.

#### **SEC. 5-8-3 DEFINITIONS.**

Within this Chapter, the following terms, phrases and words and their derivations have the meaning given herein.

- (a) The term "alarm business" means any business in which the owners or employees engage in the activity of altering, installing, leasing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, selling, or servicing alarm systems.
- (b) The term "alarm system" means an assembly of equipment and devices or single device such as a solid state unit which plugs directly into 110-volt AC line or otherwise receives electrical energy arranged to signal the presence of a hazard requiring urgent attention and

- to which the Police or Fire Department is expected to respond. In this Chapter, the term alarm system shall include the terms "automatic holdup alarm systems," "burglar alarm systems," "holdup alarm systems" and "manual holdup alarm systems" as those terms are hereinafter defined, and fire alarm systems which monitor temperature, humidity or any other condition directly related to the detection of fire. Excluded from this definition and from the coverage of this Chapter are alarm systems used to alert or signal persons within the premises in which the alarm system is located of an attempted, unauthorized intrusion or holdup attempt or fire.
- (c) The term "annunciator" means the instrumentation of an alarm console at the receiving terminal of a signal line through which both visual and audible signals show when an alarm device at a particular location has been activated or which, in the event of malfunction, may also indicate line trouble.
  - (d) The term "answering service" refers to a telephone answering service providing among its services the service of receiving on a continuous basis by trained employees emergency signals from alarm systems, and thereafter immediately relaying the message by live voice to the Racine County Communications Center.
  - (e) The term "automatic dialing device" refers to an alarm system which automatically sends over regular telephone lines by direct connection or otherwise a prerecorded voice message or coded signal indicating the existence of the emergency situation that the alarm system is designed to detect.
  - (f) The term "automatic holdup alarm system" means an alarm system in which the signal transmission is initiated by the action of the robber.
  - (g) The term "manual holdup alarm system" refers to an alarm system in which the signal transmission is initiated by the direct action of the person attacked or by an observer thereof.
  - (h) The term "burglar alarm system" refers to an alarm system which signals an entry or attempted entry into the area protected by the system
  - (i) The term "direct connect" means an alarm system which has the capability of transmitting system signals to the Racine County Communications Center.
  - (j) The term "false alarm" means 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 employees or agents or other undetermined cause. False alarm does not include alarms caused by tornadoes or other violent climatic conditions.
  - (k) The term "interconnect" means to connect an alarm system to a voice grade telephone line, either directly or through a mechanical device that utilizes a standard telephone, for the purpose of using the telephone line to transmit an emergency message upon the activation of the alarm system.
  - (l) The term "central station" means an office to which remote alarm and supervisory signaling devices are connected, where operators supervise the circuits.
  - (m) The term "primary trunk line" means a telephone line leading directly into the Racine County Communications Center that is for the purpose of handling emergency calls on a person-to-person basis and which is identified as such by a specific number included among the emergency numbers listed in the telephone directory, or numbers in sequence therewith.
  - (n) As set forth in Wisconsin Administrative Code §SPS 314.03(1)(h) and Wis. Stat. §101.01(12), the term "public building" means any structure, including exterior parts of such

building, such as a porch, exterior platform, or steps providing means of ingress or egress, used in whole or in part as a place of resort, assemblage, lodging, trade, traffic, occupancy, or use by the public or by 3 or more tenants, excluding:

- (1) One or two-family dwellings and outbuildings, such as barns, garages, or sheds.
  - (2) Temporary buildings, not exceeding two (2) stories in height, used exclusively for construction purposes.
  - (3) Buildings owned by the federal or state government.
- (o) The term “subscriber” means a person who buys or leases or otherwise obtains an alarm system and thereafter contracts with or hires an alarm business to monitor and/or service the alarm system.
- (p) The term "supervised fire alarm system" means a system that is:
- (1) Comprised of a single device or a number of devices, interconnected with a smoke detector or a heat detector.
  - (2) Wired directly into a 110 volt A.C. system on the premises.
  - (3) Equipped with a battery backup.
  - (4) Monitored twenty-four (24) hours per day by an answering service.
  - (5) Able to immediately signal the proper Village authority of a safety hazard which requires an immediate response by the Fire Department.
  - (6) In compliance with the requirements of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**SEC. 5-8-4 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.**

The Chief of Police and Fire Chief shall jointly promulgate such rules as may be necessary for the implementation of this Chapter. Such rules shall require the approval of the Village Board and shall be open to inspection by the public.

**SEC. 5-8-5 SUPERVISED FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS.**

- (a) Required. A supervised fire alarm system shall be installed and maintained in all public buildings which are constructed or substantially modified subsequent to the passage of this Section. "Substantially modified" shall mean a modification of the building which is equal to or exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the assessed value of the building.
- (b) Exceptions. A supervised fire alarm system shall not be required where buildings are protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system and the area containing the fire alarm control unit is sprinklered, as allowed by NFPA Section 13.

**SEC. 5-8-6 DIRECT CONNECTIONS TO THE RACINE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER.**

Direct connections to the Racine County Communications Center are prohibited.

**SEC. 5-8-7 TESTING.**

- (a) No alarm business or alarm system designed to transmit emergency messages to the Police or Fire Department shall be tested or demonstrated without prior notification and approval of the Police or Fire Department. Alarm businesses or alarm system owners or lessors will be advised on proper test procedure.
- (b) No alarm system relayed through intermediate services to the Police or Fire Department will be tested to determine the Police or Fire Department's response without first notifying the appropriate authority. However, the Police or Fire Department may inspect or test on-site alarm systems authorized under this Chapter.
- (c) Alarm systems shall be in compliance with all pertinent response policies of the Police or Fire Departments.
- (d) The Police and Fire Departments shall be notified prior to deactivating any alarm system.

**SEC. 5-8-8 NOTIFICATION.**

When the service provided by an alarm business to its subscribers is disrupted for any reason by the alarm business or the alarm business becomes aware of such disruption, it shall promptly notify its subscribers by telephone that protection is no longer being provided. If, however, the alarm business has written instructions from its subscriber not to make such notification by telephone during certain hours, the alarm business may comply with such instructions.

**SEC. 5-8-9 FEE FOR ANSWERING ALARMS.**

- (a) **Generally.** Each false alarm requires response of public safety personnel, involves unnecessary expense to the Village, increases the risk of injury to persons or damage to property and dilutes the overall public safety protection to the Village. Such false alarms constitute a public nuisance and must be abated.
- (b) **Intentional.** No person shall intentionally cause the activation of a burglar/fire alarm device knowing that no criminal activity, fire or other emergency exists.
- (c) **False Alarms; Administrative Charges.** Any person, business, corporation or other entity having permissible alarm system with alarm device(s) at one or more locations in accordance with this Chapter shall pay to the Village a charge for false alarms responded to by the Police or Fire Department according to the following schedule for each calendar year for each location connected, separate accounts to be kept for false alarms as to criminal activity and false alarms for fire or other emergencies:
  - (1) Responded to by Police Department within one (1) calendar year:
 

a.	First two (2) false alarms for a location (May Send Warning Letter after 2nd Offense)	No Charge
b.	Third (3rd) false alarm per location	\$50.00
c.	Fourth ( 4th) false alarm per location	\$100.00
d.	Fifth (5th) and subsequent false alarm per location	\$150.00
  - (2) All false alarms responded to by Fire Department firefighting personnel and apparatus, in addition to a police response:

- a. Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for the first false alarm within one (1) calendar year; and
- b. Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) for each additional false alarm in such calendar year.

This Subsection is intended to impose a strict liability on the person, business, corporation or other entity responsible for alarm connection to either the police alarm panel or to alarm receiving firm to which the Police or Fire Department have responded and shall be applied regardless of the cause of the false alarm excepting those alarms excluded from the definition of "False Alarm." Failure to pay such administrative charge(s) in and of itself shall constitute a violation of this Section, and such charge(s) shall be collectible as a forfeiture upon prosecution and conviction hereof, together with an additional forfeiture(s) which may be imposed under Subsection (e) hereof for violation of this Section for allowing or maintaining condition(s) or act(s) contrary to the intent of this Section of eliminating and minimizing the occurrence of false alarms, together with costs of prosecution.

- (d) **Waiver of Fee.** If a possessor of the alarm shows to the satisfaction of the Chief of Police or the Fire Chief, as applicable, that such false alarm was not the result of negligence or improper installation or maintenance, or other good and sufficient cause beyond the reasonable control of the possessor of the alarm, such fee may be waived and the response shall not count as a false alarm in computing the fee established under Subsection (c).
- (e) **Other Violations.** Any person, corporation or other entity violating this Chapter in any manner, other than for collection of unpaid administrative charges treated in the preceding Subsection (c) of this Section, shall be subject to forfeiture as provided in Section 1-1-6 of this Code. When any premises located in the Village is owned, leased or occupied by two (2) or more persons as joint tenants, tenants in common, joint lessees, or in any other manner, each person shall ensure that the provisions of this Chapter are complied with, and each person may be subjected to a penalty on violation of this Section.
- (f) **Default of Payment for Forfeiture and/or Costs.** On default of payment of forfeiture and/or costs under the immediately preceding Subsections (c) and/or (e), such person or responsible officer of the violating corporation or other entity shall be confined in the county jail until the same be paid but not to exceed a length of time specified by the court which length of time shall not exceed six (6) months. Upon nonpayment of the fee, the amount due may be placed on the tax roll as a special charge pursuant to Wis. Stat. §66.0627.

#### **SEC. 5-8-10 VILLAGE LIABILITY**

The Village of Caledonia shall be under no duty or obligation to a subscriber or to any other person concerning any provision of this Chapter, including, but not limited to, any defects in an alarm system or any delays in transmission or response to any alarm; however, this in no way shall be construed that it is not the proper function of law enforcement to respond to alarms.