



Fire Marshal's Office
San Mateo County Fire
CAL FIRE

320 Paul Scannell Drive, San Mateo, California 94402 (650) 573-3846

Date: May. 5, 2012

Revised: New

Number: CFS-025

Title: *False Alarm Response Policy*

Approved: *Clayton Jolley*

SCOPE:

This policy is to be used as a guide to the application of local amendments 3.84.280 and 3.84.290 of the County Fire adoption of the 2010 California Fire Code.

CODE SECTIONS:

§ 3.84.280 Fire Department Response To False Alarms

Section 907.9.5.1 of the California Fire Code is added to read as follows:

Any building owner or owner's agent who fails to properly maintain and service any smoke detector or fire alarm system, water flow detection alarm or fire sprinkler tamper alarm, after being notified that service or maintenance is required, will be subject to the payment of costs related to any false alarm response by the fire department.

§ 3.84.290 Making False Report

Section 907.9.5.2 of the California Fire Code is added to read as follows

It shall be unlawful for a person to give, signal or transmit a false alarm. A false report may include signals from a fire alarm system, including signals caused during fire alarm maintenance without prior Fire Department notification. Any person making a false report will be subject to the payment of costs related to any false report response by the fire department.

Policy:

A. Frequency of event:

- ✘ No Fees will be charged for the first and second false fire alarms in a Calendar year.
- ✘ After the third false fire alarm in a calendar year the imposition of cost recovery for the third and each additional false fire alarm in a calendar year would be requested from the property owner.
- ✘ The estimated cost for responding to a false alarm is \$156.75 for a single engine company, which would be the amount of the fee for the third and each subsequent call to a single location during a calendar year.
- ✘ The activation of a Fire Alarm System will not be considered a False Fire Alarm if the alarm is activated due to malicious causes beyond the control of the Owner.

B. Post Alarm:

Upon a response to a fire alarm system activation (Section 3.84.280) that is found to be a false fire alarm, the Fire Department will provide written notice (*Form CFS-025A*) to the owner of the property. The ordinance defines an owner as the person who owns the premises in which a fire alarm system is installed or the person or persons, who lease, operate, occupy or manage the premises. The notice advises the owner that the San Mateo County Fire Department responded to a false fire alarm at their premises location, and that the false alarm may be due to either a malfunction or improper maintenance of the fire alarm system installed at the premises. The notice provides necessary actions recommended to be taken to correct the problem. In addition, the notice outlines the potential consequences for additional responses to false fire alarms and the applicable cost recovery associated with those responses during the same fiscal year.

C. System Malfunction Examples:

<i>Fire Alarm Control Panel Will Not Reset</i>	<i>Fire Sprinkler System is Inoperative/Defective</i>
<i>Water Flow Alarm Will Not Reset</i>	<i>Manual Pull Station is Inoperative/Defective</i>
<i>Trouble Notification</i>	<i>Auto.Suppression System is Inoperative/Defective</i>
<i>Smoke Detectors Are Inoperative/Defective</i>	<i>Fire Alarm System Alarming in Error</i>
<i>Other:</i>	

D. Routing of False Fire Alarm Report:

Upon completing the False Fire Alarm Report Form (*CFS-025A*) The Company Officer shall provide the White copy to the premise, route the Goldenrod copy to Fire Prevention (Fire Marshals Office) and retain the Pink copy in the responding station records.