

City of CryWolf False Alarm Abatement Program

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register my alarm system?

If you are not registered with the City, please print the Registration form from our website, complete the form, make your check payable to "City of CryWolf False Alarm Reduction Program", and deliver by mail to: PO Box 25890 Waldorf, MD 20589.

What is the cost of the alarm registration?

The cost of an alarm registration is as follows:

Residential Property: \$20

Non-Residential Property: \$80

Who is required to have an alarm permit/license?

Everyone operating an alarm system inside the city limits is required to register their alarm system. Government buildings are exempt from paying the registration fee but must register their alarm system.

Where do the registration fees and alarm service fees go?

The fees are used to offset the City's administrative costs of the program.

Are false alarms a problem?

Yes, they are. Across the nation, the growth of alarm system ownership has resulted in a tremendous amount of false alarms. The response to false alarms has created an additional burden on our law enforcement agencies. Nationwide, approximately 99% or more of all the burglar alarms police respond on are false.

What does the City hope to accomplish by enforcing the false alarm ordinance?

The City wants to substantially reduce the number of false alarms that the police department responds to.

Will I be charged for alarm activations that are not false?

No, you will never be charged for an alarm activation that is not false, this ordinance allows charges for false alarms only.

What if my alarm is activated accidentally?

False alarm activations within a 365 day period will result as follows:

False Alarms:

1 \$0

2 \$100

3 \$150

4 \$250
5+ \$500

Government buildings are exempt.

If I disagree with an assessed fine, can I appeal?

Yes. If you disagree, the ordinance does have an appeal provision. To appeal a false alarm fee, please read the following: The Alarm User may appeal an assessment of a false alarm fee to the Department's Review Board by setting forth in writing the reasons for the appeal within ten (10) days of the date of the notice sent by the Department. The Police Department shall set the matter for an appeal before the Department's Review Board. The alarm user may submit relevant evidence regarding the alleged grounds for suspension or revocation or the imposition of false alarm fees with their written appeal. The Review Board shall notify the alarm user of their decision in writing by certified mail no later than two (2) weeks after the appeal has been received. The decision of the Review Board shall be final.

Do I have to register my car alarm?

No, car alarms do not need to be registered.

Where do I send my check?

The mailing address is:
City of CryWolf False Alarm Reduction Program
PO Box 25890
Waldorf, MD 20589

What will happen if I do not pay the alarm fines?

Failure to pay the alarm fines within 30 days may result in suspended police response.

Can my alarm registration be suspended?

Yes it can be suspended from police response. Some of the reasons are failure to make a timely payment of assessed fees or fines, having more than five false alarms within a 365-day period, or making a false statement of a material fact in the application for registration.

I've become suspended, how do I reinstate my permit?

If your account has become suspended you will be required to pay all outstanding fees and fines.

What is the effective date for the ordinance?

The alarm ordinance went into effect on June 12, 1999.

I received duplicate alarm invoices at my address; what can I do?

If you received a duplicate alarm invoice, please contact us at (877) 729-9653 so we can delete the incorrect invoice(s). If you are directed to a voicemail box, please leave a message with your name, address, phone number and the account/permit numbers that need to be combined or deleted.

Where can I read or obtain a copy of the ordinance?

The alarm ordinance is posted online at: <https://www.crywolf.us> or call us at (877) 729-9653.

Who can I call if I have additional questions or comments?

Call us at (877) 729-9653, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.