

MONTEREY TOWN BY-LAWS 1998 EDITION

ARTICLE XIII Alarm Systems *(November 16, 1991)*

Section 1. Definitions - As used in this by-law, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ALARM SYSTEMS: Any alarm device which automatically dials or uses a private service to dial the emergency telephone number of the Police, Fire Dept. or other emergency service to alert that an emergency exists or that the services of that dept. 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 any 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 Dept. 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 Police, Fire Dept. or dispatch center and reproduces a prerecorded message to report a criminal act or other emergency requiring Police, Fire, or emergency service response.

FALSE EMERGENCY ALARM: Any signal actuated by an emergency alarm to which the Police, Fire Dept. or emergency service responds which is not the result of an emergency.

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

DIALING DEVICES: All dialing devices operated by automatic means shall transmit messages only to such numbers as may be designated for that purpose by the Police or Fire Dept. of the Town. After 90 days following the effective date of this by-law, no person shall use, operate, or install any device which will, upon activation by automatic means, initiate dialing, calling or cause any other connection with the Police, Fire Dept. or emergency service of the Town either at its regularly constituted telephone

number of any other number which may be designated by said Police or Fire Dept. as its emergency number without a permit issued by the Select Board.

LIMITATIONS ON DIALING DEVICES: No person shall use, operate or install any dialing system that will, upon activation, automatically dial, call or connect with the telephone number designated by the Police chief or Fire Chief for the purpose of receiving such alarm messages, more than twice for any one (1) incident. Any system installed on or after the effective date of this by-law must comply with this by-law. Pre-existing installations must comply within 90 days of the effective date of this by-law.

MANDATORY ALARM DELAY: Upon the activation of a burglar (break-in) alarm, there shall be a mandatory delay of at least fifteen (15) seconds before the transmission of a signal to the Police Dept. to enable the user to abort the signal in the event that it was triggered inadvertently. This delay shall not be applicable to a robbery (holdup), fire, or medical emergency alarm. Any system installed on or after the effective date of this by-law must comply with this section. Pre-existing installations must comply within 90 days of the effective date of this by-law.

TIMING DEVICE: The use of every alarm system emitting an audible, visual or other response shall, at the time such system is installed or within 90 days of the effective date of this by-law 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 2 – Filing Requirements

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 by-law, file the following information with the office of the Select Board.

1. Type of alarm system.
2. Street address and the nearest cross street of the building which houses the alarm.
3. In the case of commercial premises, the name, address and telephone number of an

authorized representative and/or an alternative who will be able to respond when called by Police to deactivate the alarm system, if necessary. 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.

Such filing requirements are applicable to all alarm systems whether the same are or are not directly connected to the Police, Fire Department and 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 or Fire Dept. of the Town.

Section 3 – Permit, Fee, Revocation

The Select Board 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, Fire, or Emergency Alarm Device, and no such device shall be operated unless such permit shall have first been issued. TIMING DEVICE

Section 4 – Fee

The Select Board shall set and charge a fee for the issuance of such permit.

Section 5 – Revocation Policy

A permit issued pursuant to this by-law may be revoked at any time or from time to time by the Select Board 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. The violation of this by-law shall constitute grounds for the revocation of the permit.

Section 6 – False Alarms

A fee will be charged as set by the Select Board for response to the building/residence in which alarm malfunctions or alarm activation is caused by the occupant or persons having control of the building/residence. When the Police Department responds to a false burglar alarm, the initial response shall be free of charge; the second response shall be \$100; the third response shall be \$200. The Police Chief or Fire Chief or senior officer responding to an alarm response will determine whether the alarm was a malfunction by the alarm system or an accidental activation. The Police or Fire Department shall use any means

necessary to check the premises to determine the cause of the alarm. After the third response within a twelve-month period, the permit shall be revoked by the Select Board until the alarm system has been recertified by a reputable installer of alarms.

Section 7 – Disconnection

In the event that an alarm system emitting an external audible, visual or other similar response shall fail to be deactivated within the time limitation specified above under “TIMING DEVICE,” the Town shall have the right to take such action as may be necessary in order to disconnect any such alarm.

Section 8 – Penalties for Offenses

Any person operating an alarm system without a permit from the Select Board violates the provisions of this by-law and shall be subject to a fine of \$100 for each offense.