

ALARM SYSTEM ORDINANCE

- A. Intent and Purpose. It is the intent and purpose of this Ordinance to provide minimum standards and regulations applicable to users and installers of burglar, fire, hold-up, and automatic telephone dialer alarms within the Town of Beacon Falls, to provide penalties for non-compliance, and to encourage the installation of protective alarm systems in all dwellings and commercial structures.
- B. Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to this Ordinance:
1. **ALARM SYSTEM** means an assembly of equipment and devices (or a single device, such as a solid state unit, which may operate from a 110-volt AC line) arranged to signal the presence of a hazard requiring urgent attention and to which the police or fire personnel are expected to respond. This includes all burglar alarms, fire alarms, hold-up alarms and automatic telephone dialer alarms, except this does not include smoke detectors which do not signal outside an alarmed premises or alarm systems on motor vehicles.
 2. **ALARM USER** means any person, firm, or corporation on whose premises any alarm system is maintained within the Town.
 3. **AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE DIALING DEVICE** refers to an alarm system which automatically sends to the Police Department, Fire Department, or any other Municipal emergency response facility over regular telephone lines by direct connection or otherwise, a prerecorded voice message indicating the existence of an emergency situation that the alarm system is designed to detect.
 4. **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. Such terminology does not include, for example, alarms caused by hurricanes, tornadoes, lightning, earthquakes, or other normal infrequent violent conditions or acts of God. Excluded from this section are false alarms that are transmitted with a criminal, malicious, or mischievous intent. Such violations will be prosecuted under the applicable General Statutes of the State of Connecticut.
- C. Requirements
1. Any person, firm or corporation having an alarm system installed within the Town, shall register with the Office of the Resident State Trooper at the time of installation. All existing alarm systems shall be registered with the Beacon Falls Resident Trooper within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this section.

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2. Every alarm system installed shall meet the requirements set forth in the building and electrical codes of the State of Connecticut, including any requirements with respect to the licensing of the persons installing such systems. An alarm system requiring an electrical permit to install shall be obtained from the Town Building Official, or his designated representative, as is required by the Building and Electrical Codes of the State of Connecticut.
 3. Alarm users having existing automatic telephone dialing devices shall comply with Section 7-282b of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut.
 4. All alarm systems, as defined by this section, which sound an audible signal which may be heard outside the protected premises, shall be equipped with a device which shall limit the duration of such audible signal not more than thirty (30) minutes in accordance with Section 22a-69-5 of the Administrative Regulations of the Department of Environmental Protection of the State of Connecticut.
 5. **FALSE ALARM PENALTIES:**
 - 5.1. After issuing a warning for the first (1st) false alarm, upon receipt of the second false alarm from any protected property, the Town of Beacon Falls shall levy a penalty of \$25.00 each for said second and third false alarm in one (1) calendar year. False alarms for the first month after installation or major upgrading of a system shall be waived.
 - 5.2. The penalty for the 4th and 5th false alarm shall be \$50.00 each.
 - 5.3. Any false alarm after the 5th shall result in a \$100.00 fine.
- D. Violations and penalties. Any person, firm, or corporation who shall fail to pay the penalty, which has been assessed and provided in Subsection (5) of this Ordinance, within thirty (30) days shall be fined one hundred dollars (\$100.00). Each delinquent user fee shall be a separate offense.

Each fine levied in accordance with this section shall be paid to the Beacon Falls Police Department or the Beacon Falls Fire Marshal within sixty (60) days of notification of the fine. Fines not paid within said sixty (60) day period shall automatically be doubled.

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Any person, firm or corporation aggrieved by assessment of a fine, fee or levy under any provisions of this Ordinance may file a written appeal of the assessment with the Office of the First Selectman no later than fifteen (15) days after the official notice of violation is mailed by the Beacon Falls Police Department or the Beacon Falls Fire Marshal. Within thirty (30) days of the filing of said appeal, a Hearing Officer shall be appointed by the First Selectman and the matter shall be heard and ruled upon. The decision of the Hearing Officer may be appealed to the Superior Court.

Any person, firm, or corporation found to be in violation of any other provision of this Ordinance shall be fined twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

- E. The funds collected shall be placed in the General Fund.
- F. If any section or part of this Ordinance shall be held invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such holdings shall not effect the remainder of this Ordinance, except to the extent that an entire section or part of a section which such holdings shall directly apply.

Ordinance Relating to Burglar, Fire, Hold-Up and Automatic Telephone Dialer Alarms passed October 8, 1995 is repealed.

This Ordinance passed at a duly scheduled Town Meeting held on February 18, 1997.

The effective date of this Ordinance is April 18, 1997.

A summary of the foregoing Ordinance was published on April 3, 1997 in the Connecticut Post and the Waterbury Republican, both papers having a substantial circulation in the Town of Beacon Falls.

Public Hearing held on August 9, 2007

Town Meeting held on September 6, 2007.

Ordinance published on September 14, 2007

This Ordinance became effective September 29, 2007.