



**Village of Hampshire**  
**Alarm System Regulations-Local Ord. 18-51**

**2-21-1: Purpose.** The purpose of these regulations is to ensure that citizens residing in the Village of Hampshire register their alarm systems and take necessary measures to prevent false alarms. False alarms are a public nuisance prejudicial to the general health, safety, and welfare of the public. These regulations are intended to reduce the number of responses by the Hampshire Police Department to false alarms and thereby to reduce exposure of its police officers and the public to the dangers associated with emergency responses and waste of the resources of the Hampshire Police Department.

**2-21-2: Definitions**

**Alarm Administrator:** A person or persons designated by the Chief, or his designee, to administer, control and review False Alarm reduction efforts and administer the provisions of these regulations.

**Alarm Company:** Any person subject to licensing requirements or a company engaged in selling, leasing, installing, servicing, or monitoring alarm systems. This person shall be licensed and in compliance with State, County, and City laws.

**Alarm Permit Application:** An application for authorization or consent by the Hampshire Police Department for the installation of an Alarm System.

**Alarm Signal:** A detectable signal, audible or visual, generated by an Alarm System to which the Police Department is requested or notified to respond.

**Alarm System:** Any signal device or assembly of equipment designed to signal the occurrence of an illegal or unauthorized entry or other activity requiring immediate attention to which the Police Department is requested to respond.

**Alarm User:** Any person, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, governmental, or educational entity or any other entity owning, leasing, or operating an Alarm System, or on whose premises an Alarm System is maintained for the protection of such premises.

**Audible Alarms:** An Alarm System or device that generates an audible sound.

**Automatic Dial Protection Device:** An automatic dialing device or an automatic telephone dialing Alarm System, including any system which, upon being activated, initiates to the Hampshire Police Department a recorded message or code indicating a need for law enforcement response.

**Cancellation:** The process when response is terminated and the Alarm Company (designated by the Alarm User) notifies the Hampshire Police Department that there is no existing situation at the alarm site requiring police response after an alarm dispatch request. If cancellation occurs prior to police arriving at the scene, this is not a False Alarm for the purpose of a fine, and no penalty will be assessed.

**False Alarm:** The activation or transmission of an alarm signal through mechanical or electronic failure, malfunction, improper installation or maintenance, or the negligence of the Alarm User, and/or

his or her employee(s) or agent(s), unless Police Department response was cancelled by the Alarm User and/or his or her Alarm Company before Police Department personnel arrive at the alarm location. An alarm is false within the meaning of this definition when, upon inspection by the Hampshire Police Department, evidence indicates that no unauthorized event or occurrence was committed or attempted in or on the premises, which would have activated a properly functioning Alarm System. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a False Alarm will not include an alarm which can reasonably be determined to have been caused or activated by unusually violent conditions of nature, nor does it include other extraordinary circumstances not reasonably subject to control by the Alarm User.

**False Alarm Notification:** An alarm request or notification for response when the responding Hampshire Police Officer finds, through inspection of the interior and/or exterior of the alarm site, no evidence of an attempted or actual unauthorized event or occurrence. and the Officer has responded.

**Permit Year:** A twelve (12) month period beginning on the first day of the calendar year (January 1).

**Police Department:** The Police Department of the Village of Hampshire.

**Runaway Alarm:** An Alarm System that produces repeated alarm signals that do not appear to be caused by separate human action. The Village of Hampshire may, in its discretion, discontinue police responses to Alarm Signals from what appears to be a Runaway Alarm.

**2-21-3: Permit Required:** No person shall install or operate an Alarm System without first obtaining an Alarm Permit for said Alarm System from the Hampshire Police Department. An Alarm User has the duty to complete an Alarm Permit Application and/or renewal from the Hampshire Police Department

A. An alarm permit shall be valid for a period of one (1) calendar year beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

B. An Alarm Permit Application fee of seventy-five (\$75.00) dollars is required for an initial application. No fee is required for the yearly renewal.

C. Each approved alarm shall be assigned a Permit Number, and the Alarm User shall provide the Permit Number to the Alarm Company to facilitate dispatch of Police Department personnel. The Permit Number will be issued to the Alarm User upon completion of the application process including payment of the Alarm Permit Fee.

D. Alarm Permits are not transferable. When possession of the premises at which an Alarm System is located is transferred, the person obtaining possession of the property shall file an application for an Alarm Permit within thirty (30) days of the transfer date in order to continue use of said alarm.

E. Whenever information provided on the Alarm Permit Application changes, the Alarm User shall provide correct information to the Hampshire Police Department within thirty (30) days of the change.

F. If an Alarm User has one (1) or more Alarm System (s) protecting two (2) or more separate structures, having different addresses and/or tenants, a separate Alarm Permit shall be required for

each structure and/or tenant

**2-21-4: Permit Application**

A. Each Alarm User's Alarm Permit Application shall be held on file at the Hampshire Police Department and must contain the following information:

1. Alarm User's legal name/address, and telephone number.
2. Name, address, and telephone number of the premise where the Alarm System is located.
3. Type of Alarm System at the premise location.
4. Minimum of three (3) individuals, including their addresses and telephone numbers, who can be contacted and will respond to the premises in the event of an emergency, or can reset or deactivate the Alarm System/or who could contact the Alarm User if the Alarm User is not at the protected premises.
5. Name, address, and telephone number of the person or company that installed the Alarm System.
6. The name, address, and telephone number of the person or company that is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the Alarm System, if applicable,

B. An Alarm Permit number will not be issued until the completed application is received and approval of the Permit Application has been granted by the Hampshire Police Department.

C. An application for an alarm may be denied if the applicant then has outstanding any indebtedness to the Village, including but not limited to any fee or fine due for any alarm

**2-21-5: Duties of the Alarm User:** Each Alarm User shall at all times:

A. Maintain the premises and the Alarm System in a method that will reduce or eliminate False Alarms.

B. Provide the Alarm Company the Alarm Permit Number (the number must be provided to the central dispatch and/or the communications center by the Alarm Company to ensure dispatch).

C. Respond or cause a representative to come to the Alarm System location when notified by the Hampshire Police Department.

D. Not manually activate an alarm for any reason other than an occurrence of an event that the alarm system was intended to report.

E. Obtain a new Alarm Permit Number and pay any associated fees if there is a change of ownership or occupancy at the location of the alarm.

F. Adjust the alarm mechanism or cause such mechanism to be adjusted so that an Alarm Signal audible on the exterior of the alarm site shall sound for not less than fifteen (15) minutes or for no longer than 15 minutes.

**2-21-6: Fines for False Alarms.** The Hampshire Police Department will charge; and collect fines for

False Alarms as follows:

A. Any Alarm User who has more than one (1) False Alarm within a calendar year at a single protected location will be assessed a fine according to the following schedule:

First and/or Second False Alarm	Waived/\$0.00
Third False Alarm	\$200.00
Fourth and Each Subsequent False Alarm Thereafter	\$300.00
Alarm Permit Registration Fee	\$75.00
Failure to Register Alarm System, First Offense	\$150.00
Failure to Register Alarm System, Second Offense or thereafter.	\$300.00

Provided, multiple False Alarms in one calendar day may be counted as one alarm incident at the discretion of the Alarm Administrator.

B. If a False Alarm is caused by technical and/or system maintenance issues, then the False Alarm event may be waived by the Alarm Administrator upon evidentiary proof, provided by the Alarm User, that the Alarm System has been maintained and/or repaired within thirty {30} days of the date of the False Alarm event. The Alarm User will be responsible for submitting written documentation as supplied by the Alarm Company warranting and/or documenting repair within the thirty (30) day period.

C. The Hampshire Police Department will notify the Alarm User in writing, or via best method of contact, of each instance where the Police Department has recorded a False Alarm. The Alarm User will have the opportunity within thirty (30) days from the date of notification to submit a report and/or speak with the Alarm Administrator for the purpose of showing cause as to whether circumstances exist to warrant voiding the False Alarm recordation. The Alarm Administrator shall review the Alarm Users report and/or speak with the Alarm User and issue a written finding to the Alarm Users as to whether or not the False Alarm recorded will be voided.

D. No person will install, cause to be installed, maintain, or cause to be maintained any Automatic Dial Protection Device that dials any dispatch telephone line. The caller must be a natural person able to convey the nature of the call. Pre-recorded voice messages are prohibited. It is unlawful for an individual to allow an automatic alarm, automatic dialing device, or automatic alerting device which causes a dispatch telephone to be activated; and, whose purpose is to establish an open telephone line with the specific intent that a conversation between parties not actively speaking into the telephone instrument be heard by dispatch in order to directly access emergency services based on an overhead conversation or lack of conversation.

#### **2-21-7: Prohibited Acts**

A. It shall be unlawful to activate an Alarm System for the purpose of summoning the Police Department when no unauthorized event or occurrence dangerous to life or property has been or is being committed or attempted on the premises, or otherwise to cause a False Alarm.

B. It shall be unlawful to install, maintain, or use an Audible Alarm System, which can sound

continually for more than fifteen (15) minutes.

C. It shall be unlawful to install, maintain, or use an Automatic Dial Protective Device that reports, or causes to be reported, any recorded message to the Hampshire Police Department or Dispatch.

#### **2-21-8: Enforcement of Provisions**

A. A fine may be imposed for any of the following:

1. Failure to file an Alarm Permit Application;
2. Failure to obtain an Alarm Permit prior to installation or operation of an Alarm System; or
3. Three or more False Alarms occurring within any twelve-month Permit period.

B. An alarm shall not be deemed to be a False Alarm if the Alarm User promptly provides convincing evidence to the Chief of Police of his designee that:

1. An individual activated the alarm based upon reasonable believe that an emergency, or actual, or threatened going to activity requiring immediate response existed.
2. The Alarm System was activated by lightning or electrical surge that caused physical damage the system, as evidenced by the testimony of a licensed alarm system contractor who conducted an on-site inspection and personally documented the damage to the system.
3. The alarm experienced a power outage of four (4) or more hours, causing the alarm system to activate upon restoration of power, as evidence by written documentation by their provider.
4. An Alarm Dispatch request that is canceled by the Alarm Company, prior to the arrival of an officer(s), is not considered a False Alarm.

C. If a Hampshire Police Officer responds and finds no evidence of criminal activity or medical need the alarm will be classified as a False Alarm.

D. Failure to make payment of any fines assessed under these regulations, within thirty (30) days from the date of the invoice shall result in suspension of Police Department response to alarm signals that may occur at the premises described in the Alarm User's Permit Application until payment is received.

E. Failure to register and obtain a renewal Permit may result in no Police Department response to an unregistered alarm site.

F. A written notice of suspension of Police Department response will be mailed via U.S. Certified Postal Mail to the Alarm User

G. Hampshire Police Department response will be reinstated when the Alarm User pays or otherwise resolves to the satisfaction of the Alarm Administrator any and all outstanding fines.

**2-21-9: Government Immunity.** Issuance of an Alarm Permit by the Village shall not create any contract, duty or obligation on the part of the Village to respond to any request or notification, and the governmental immunities provided under Illinois law are intended to and shall apply.