Alarm Owners’ Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of the alarm owner to monitor false alarms on his/her premises.

In the event of an alarm, the Davenport Police Department and/or the Davenport Fire Department will request that the alarm user or keyholder (means any person authorized by the alarm user to enter or allow access to the alarm user’s premises for the purpose of enabling the police department or the fire department to investigate and determine the validity of an alarm and to reset the alarm) to respond to the scene.

Alarm users shall respond to each activated alarm at their premises within 45 minutes of notification. Response means arrival at the scene of the alarm.

Failure of an alarm user or keyholder to respond to the scene within 45 minutes of notification (without good cause) shall result in a $50 fine.

What Can I Do to Prevent False Alarms?

- Make sure everyone in your home or business knows how to manually operate the alarm system and what to do if the alarm is accidentally set off.
- Before you turn on your alarm, make sure all doors and windows are closed and locked.
- Test your alarm system at least once a month to make sure it is working properly. Call your alarm company for immediate service if you think your system is not working properly.
- When testing your alarm, don’t forget to notify the alarm monitoring company.
- Keep pets out of rooms with motion sensors. Also make sure these rooms are free of anything else that could activate the system.

City of Davenport

ALARM CONTROL ORDINANCE

This brochure is designed to provide information about the City of Davenport’s alarm ordinance which allows the City to fine businesses and homeowners for false alarms.

FALSE ALARMS COST YOU!
THEY COST IN FINES, TAX DOLLARS AND PERSONAL INCONVENIENCE.

For More Information Contact:
City of Davenport
1 Allapaha Avenue
Davenport, FL 33837
(863) 419-3300

Published by the Davenport Police Department
On March 28, 2016, a new City of Davenport Alarm Control Ordinance (Ordinance No. 784) went into effect which allows the Davenport Police Department, the Davenport Fire Department and the City of Davenport to impose a fine against businesses and home owners for False Alarms. The ordinance was designed to minimize the number of false alarms and help offset the cost of officer and/or fireman response to false alarms. The ordinance places responsibility on the alarm user to prevent false alarms. All residents and businesses within the city limits of Davenport are subject to this ordinance. According to the ordinance, alarm users who allow more than two false alarms within a year (consecutive 365-day period) will be subject to fines. The “alarm user” is the person, business or other entity who owns, leases or occupies the premises in which the alarm system is installed. The amount of the fine will be determined by the number of false alarms a user has had within the last year (364 days) prior to the most recent false alarm.

### What Is a False Alarm?

A false alarm occurs when the alarm system is activated and the Davenport Police Department and/or the Davenport Fire Department responds, but there is no evidence of unauthorized entry, criminal activity (or reasonable threat of criminal activity) or any other emergency that would require the services of the Davenport Police Department or the Davenport Fire Department. This includes signals activated by accident, negligence, mechanical failure, electrical failure, signals activated intentionally in non-emergency situations and signals for which the actual cause of activation is unknown. An alarm is considered false if responding personnel follow normal operating procedures and find no evidence of an unauthorized entry, criminal activity (or reasonable threat of), or other emergency.

Each false alarm is a separate violation of the ordinance and shall be fined as follows within a year (consecutive 365-day period):

- 1st False Alarm = No Charge
- 2nd False Alarm = No Charge
- 3rd False Alarm = $50
- 4th False Alarm = $100
- 5th False Alarm = $200
- 6th False Alarm = $300
- 7th False Alarm = $400
- 8th (and over) False Alarm = $500

### About the False Alarm Ordinance:

The ordinance prohibits the use of an Automatic Alarm Communication Systems, described as any automatic communication device or automatic telephone dialing alarm system which, upon being activated, automatically transmits to any telephone in any facility of the Davenport Fire Department or Davenport Police Department a recorded message or coded signal indicating the need for an emergency response. Failure to disconnect an Automatic Alarm Communication System (within 72 hours of notice to do so) is a second-degree misdemeanor, punishable as provided in Chapter 775, Florida Statutes.