

CHAPTER 97: PRIVATE EMERGENCY ALARM SYSTEMS

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§ 97.01 PURPOSE.

It is declared to be the purpose of this chapter to reduce the number of false alarms activated by private emergency alarm systems.
(Ord. 2003-20, § 1)

§ 97.02 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

ALARM. An audible, mechanical or electrical signal from which a detection system indicates a disturbance of the detection system or some other activity that requires urgent attention.

ALARM SYSTEM.

(1) Any assembly of equipment which is designed or functions to provide an audible, mechanical, electrical signal or automatic dialing device which indicates a disturbance or some other activity that requires urgent attention.

(2) For the purposes of this chapter, an **ALARM SYSTEM** shall not include:

(a) An alarm installed on a motor vehicle;

(b) A smoke or carbon monoxide detector not connected to an automatic dialing device; and/or

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(c) A residential alarm equipped to only emit an audible alert without automatic dialing device that resets within 15 minutes upon false activation.

ALARM USER. Any individual, corporation, partnership or other legal entity in ownership or control of an alarm system.

AUTOMATIC DIALING DEVICE. Any device connected to an alarm system which automatically sends a prerecorded message or coded signal to a selected phone number indicating the need for an emergency response.

EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL. An employee or employees of the Hobart Police Department, Hobart Fire Department or the Hobart Communications Center who routinely respond to a summons for assistance when there is a reasonable belief that the need exists.

FALSE ALARM. An alarm eliciting an emergency response when the situation does not require emergency services. For the purposes of this chapter, this does not include alarms triggered by severe atmospheric conditions.

PERMIT HOLDER. The individual, corporation, partnership or other legal entity of which an alarm system permit is issued.
(Ord. 2003-20, § 2)

§ 97.03 ALARM SYSTEM PERMIT REQUIRED.

(A) It shall be unlawful for anyone who owns or controls property to operate, cause to be operated or permit the operation of an alarm system on that property unless a current alarm system permit has been obtained from the Hobart Clerk-Treasurer's Office. However, no permit shall be required for an alarm system located on a private residence if it only has external alarm that automatically stops within 15 minutes after activation, unless emergency service personnel are routinely notified and dispatched to a private residence to investigate the alarm.

(B) Anyone who violates this section shall be subject to [§ 97.99](#) unless an alarm system permit is obtained within 10 days after receiving notification of the violation.

(C) Any activation occurring within the first 30 days after installation of a new alarm system shall be exempt.
(Ord. 2003-20, § 3) Penalty, see [§ 97.99](#)

§ 97.04 APPLICATION FOR ALARM SYSTEM PERMIT.

(A) Application for a permit for the operation of an alarm system shall be made by a person or legal entity having ownership, a leasehold interest in, or control over the property on which the alarm system is installed and operational. The application shall be made in writing to the Hobart Clerk-Treasurer's Office within 5 days following installation of an alarm system and prior to its operation.

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(B) The application shall include the following information:

- (1) Street address of the property on which the alarm system is operational;
 - (2) Any business name and owner name used for the premises on which the alarm system is operational;
 - (3) Name of the person or alarm system business that will install the alarm system;
 - (4) Name and telephone numbers of 2 people or of an alarm system business, which have agreed:
 - (a) To receive notification at any time;
 - (b) To come to the alarm site within 45 minutes after receiving a request from emergency service personnel to do so; and
 - (c) To grant access to the alarm site and to deactivate the alarm system if such becomes necessary.
 - (5) Name and location of any potentially hazardous materials stored in the business.
- (Ord. 2003-20, § 4)

§ 97.05 ISSUANCE OF ALARM SYSTEM PERMIT.

(A) The Clerk-Treasurer's Office shall issue an alarm system permit to the person or legal entity in possession or control of the property upon application and payment of the permit fee, unless the Clerk-Treasurer's Office finds that the application was incomplete or false. The Clerk-Treasurer's Office shall deposit the application fee in the General Fund for maintenance of the private emergency alarm system procedure. The permit shall contain a registration number.

(B) After receipt of the application, the Hobart Communications Center supervisor shall record the application data for use by emergency service personnel. All information shall be protected as confidential; provided, however, nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the use of such information for law enforcement purposes or for enforcement of this chapter.

(C) The permit holder shall promptly notify the Clerk-Treasurer's Office in writing of any change of information contained in the permit application. Failure to keep the emergency information, information required in [§ 97.04\(B\)\(4\)](#) and (5), current shall be subject to [§ 97.99](#).
(Ord. 2003-20, § 5)

§ 97.06 PERMIT FEE AND TERM.

(A) The fee for an alarm system shall be as set out in the Fee Schedule of this code per year.

(B) An alarm system permit issued pursuant to this chapter shall be personal to the permit holder for a specific location and is not transferable.
(Ord. 2003-20, § 6)

§ 97.07 PROHIBITED ACTIVITY.

(A) It shall be unlawful for a person who owns, leases or controls property on which an alarm system is installed to issue, cause to be issued or permit the issuance of more than 3 false alarms in any 1 calendar quarter; provided, however, this section shall not apply to an alarm system which emits a false alarm within 30 days after installation of the alarm system.

(B) A person who owns, leases or controls property on which an alarm system is installed shall receive a warning from the Hobart Police Department for the 3 false alarms issued by such alarm system during any 1 calendar quarter.

(C) This section shall apply to all locations in the City of Hobart with alarm systems installed prior to and after enactment of this chapter.
(Ord. 2003-20, § 7; Ord. 2006-01, § 1) Penalty, see [§ 97.99](#)

§ 97.08 ENFORCEMENT.

The person who owns, leases or controls the property on which an alarm system is installed shall receive written notice of each violation of this chapter. Each false alarm over the first 3 false alarms in a calendar quarter constitutes a separate offense subject to [§ 97.99](#).
(Ord. 2003-20, § 8; Ord. 2006-01, § 1)

§ 97.99 PENALTY.

Violations of this chapter are subject to the General Penalty provisions of the Hobart Municipal Code.
(Ord. 2003-20, § 9; Ord. 2006-01, § 1; Ord. 2009-17, § 6)