

CHAPTER 148

ALARM SYSTEMS

148.01 Definitions
148.02 Registration
148.03 Duties

148.04 Prohibition and Terms
148.05 Revocation of Registration
148.06 Penalty

148.01 DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "Alarm answering service or remote monitoring point" means a business providing the function of receiving on a continuous basis, through trained employees, emergency signals from alarm systems, and thereafter relaying a message by line voice to the Mills County Communications Center (911) or the Glenwood police or fire departments.
2. "Alarm system" means and includes any device used to detect or prevent intrusion, criminal activity, fire, or other such emergency situations which, when activated, causes notification to be made directly or indirectly to the Mills County Communications Center or the Glenwood police or fire departments, or any device or system designed primarily for the purpose of giving an audible or visual signal for an attempted intrusion, criminal activity, fire or other such emergency. An alarm system shall not include an alarm installed on a motor vehicle.
3. "Alarm user" means the person, firm, corporation or entity of any kind in control of any building, structure or facility who purchases, leases, contracts for, or otherwise obtains an alarm system.
4. "Annunciator" means that part of an alarm system which communicates the fact that the system has been triggered or activated.
5. "Audible annunciator" or "visual annunciator" means an annunciator which gives alarm by means of a bell, siren, buzzer, flashing light, or similar sound or light-producing device when activated, which is mounted at some location which is clearly visible when observed, or clearly audible at a distance of fifty feet or more outside of any building in which it is mounted. Annunciators can communicate directly with the Mills County Communications Center or indirectly through the use of an alarm answering service or remote monitoring point.
6. "False alarm" means and includes any signal, directly or indirectly originating from an alarm system, eliciting an urgent response

by police or rescue personnel when a situation requiring an urgent response does not, in fact, exist. The term does not include an alarm signal caused by violent conditions of nature or other extraordinary circumstances not reasonably subject to control by the alarm user. The burden of proving that such alarm was not a false alarm shall be on the alarm user.

7. "Local alarm system" means and includes an alarm system which, when activated, causes an audible and/or visual signaling device to be activated and is intended to be seen and/or heard by others outside of the protected premises.

148.02 REGISTRATION. Effective from July 1, 2002, and after, it shall be unlawful for any alarm user to use or operate any alarm system without a current valid registration therefor. Any person, firm or corporation installing an alarm system after July 1, 2002, shall have thirty days from the date of installation to obtain a registration therefor.

1. Application. The application for an alarm system registration shall list:

A. The registrant's name, Glenwood address, telephone number, date of birth and social security number;

B. The protected property's address, any business name by which the premises may be known as, including the name of the complex or center where it is located, the type of premises it is, and the telephone number(s) for the protected property;

C. Type of alarm(s) and/or signal(s) being communicated by file annunciator and the type of activity indicated by the alarm(s) system(s);

D. The name, date of birth, social security number, home and business address and telephone number of the owner(s), lessee(s) and occupant(s) of the protected premises;

E. The name, date of birth, social security number, home and business address and telephone number of three natural contact persons, or an alarm answering service, having ready access to the protected premises and who may be called upon to assist in the event the alarm is activated.

2. Issuance, Expiration, Renewal and Termination.

A. Upon receipt of the registration application, the Mayor, if it is determined that the proposed system will comply with the provisions of this chapter, may issue a registration to the

applicant. The registration will bear the applicant's identifying number and expiration date in addition to the terms and conditions which must be complied with to keep the registration in full force and effect.

B. The registration shall expire twenty-four months after the date of its issuance, and may be renewed in the same manner as original registrations are obtained.

C. Renewal registrations will be dated on the date of issuance. The renewal application shall contain the applicant's signed statement that there have been no changes in any of the information furnished on the previous application.

D. An alarm system registration shall automatically terminate upon any change of alarm user or protected premises. No registration is transferable to new premises or new user. No refunds will be given on termination of any registration for any reason.

3. Fee. The original and renewal applications shall be accompanied with a \$25.00 fee, payable to the City. A late charge as set out in the prevailing schedule of fees will be assessed on all registration holders who do not file the renewal application prior to the expiration date of their existing registrations.

148.03 DUTIES. All registration holders shall:

1. Within ten days following any change of circumstances or any change of information contained within the application, file an amendment to his/her application setting forth the currently accurate information. No additional fee shall be required unless the change has terminated the registration;

2. Cause to be trained and retrained all employees, family members and other persons who make regular use of the protected premises and who may, in the normal course of their activities, be in a position to accidentally trigger an alarm. Such training shall include procedures and practices to avoid accidental alarms, and steps to follow in the event the system is accidentally triggered;

3. At all times be responsible for the proper maintenance and repair of the system and for the repair and/or replacement of any component, method of installation, design feature or like condition which may give rise to a false alarm;

4. Set or program each alarm system so that each audible annunciator will automatically silence within fifteen minutes after being activated and will not sound again unless a new act or circumstance triggers it. Annunciators associated with fire alarms shall not be required to shut off automatically, nor shall water-flow alarms with local annunciators only be regulated by this chapter;
5. At all times abide by and comply with the rules and regulations for the operation of an alarm system established by the Mayor pursuant to this section and incorporated into the grant of the alarm system registration by this reference.

148.04 PROHIBITION AND TERMS.

1. No alarm system shall be installed, used, including the occurrence of false alarms as defined in this chapter, or maintained in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter.
2. No test of an alarm system incorporating a local audible annunciator shall be conducted between the hours of ten p.m. of any day and seven a.m. of the following day. No test of any alarm system shall be conducted contrary to the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this code, nor contrary to applicable State law.
3. At any time prior to or following the issuance of any registration, the Mayor may conduct such investigation as determined necessary to verify that the information furnished by the applicant is accurate, and that the alarm system is in conformance to this chapter as well as all other applicable provisions of the law.

148.05 REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION. The Mayor may, upon the recommendation of the Mills County Communications Director or the Chief of Police of Glenwood or the City's legal department, revoke any outstanding registration and prohibit any further use of the alarm system in question until such time that the Mayor determines that the alarm system in question is operational and functional under the provisions of this chapter.

148.06 PENALTY. Any alarm user, registration holder or applicant who violates any provision of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a municipal infraction and may be fined the sum of \$50.00 for a first offense violation, the sum of \$75.00 for a second offense violation and the sum of \$100.00 for a third and subsequent offenses per calendar year.

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[The next page is 571]