

VILLAGE OF MAURICE
ORDINANCE NO. 18-7A

Regulation of False Fire Alarms

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of Maurice, Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said Village, adopt this ordinance as follows:

Sec. 1 Territorial Applicability

The provisions of this article apply only in the Village of Maurice.

Sec. 2 False Fire Alarms

- (a) Purpose: The purpose of this section is to reduce the number of false fire alarms received from automatic fire alarm transmitting equipment, to allow for the more efficient mobilization and allocation of the resources of fire departments to provide effective response to actual fire situations instead of false fire alarms by automatic fire detection and alarm transmission equipment.
- (b) Definition of false fire alarm: For the purpose of this section, any signal transmitted by automatic fire detection and alarm transmission equipment which falsely indicates a fire shall be considered a false fire alarm, whether caused by equipment malfunction, by human error, or by any other means. The determination as to whether a fire has occurred or is in progress at the location of the alarm system shall be made by the fire officer in charge at that location.
- (c) Procedure for fire department response to and exit from location of false fire alarm: Immediately following dispatch of a fire department by a monitoring facility, the monitoring facility shall attempt to contact a designated representative of the property at the location of the alarm system to grant access to the fire department to the interior of any structures on the property. If no access is granted to the fire department, the fire officer in charge shall conduct, or have conducted under his supervision, a non-destructive exterior investigation of the property to look for signs that a fire has occurred or is in progress. If the chief fire officer in charge at the location of the alarm system determines that no fire has occurred or is in progress at that location, the chief fire officer shall leave written notification of an alarm dispatch at the front entrance of the location. After leaving such written notification, the chief fire officer and any other personnel of the fire department at the location of the alarm system may leave the location.
- (d) Penalties for False Alarms: Any automatic fire detection or alarm transmission equipment that produces more than three false fire alarm activations from any one location in any consecutive **twelve (12) month** period shall subject the owner of the premises, the Alarm Service Company, and/or the Alarm Monitoring Company, to a misdemeanor offense, punishable as follows:
 - (i) For the fourth false fire alarm signal in any consecutive **twelve (12) month** period, the fine shall be **\$100.00** plus court costs
 - (ii) For the fifth false alarm signal in any consecutive **twelve (12) month** period, the fine shall be **\$200.00** plus court costs.
 - (iii) For the sixth or any subsequent false fire alarm signal in any consecutive **twelve (12) month**, the fine shall be **\$300.00** plus court costs.
- (e) Exceptions: False fire alarms resulting from malicious acts by persons not under the control of the owner or occupant of the building, and false fire alarms which are a direct result of acts of God shall be exempted, and shall not be counted when computing the number of false fire alarms during any consecutive **twelve (12) month** period.

- (f) Contact Information: Fire alarm system monitoring companies shall request, update and maintain current files on the alarm users to include current names (i.e. key holders), telephone numbers and a current list of other contact names and number for the alarm users.
- (g) Fire department standby fee: If any fire department unit is kept at any premises, waiting for a representative (key holder) of the premises to open the structure for inspection, to reset the fire alarm system or to secure the premises, for a period of time exceeding **thirty (30) minutes** from arrival of the first responding unit, a standby fee shall be charged to the responsible party for each fire apparatus at the rate of **\$100.00** per hour per fire apparatus for each succeeding hour or fraction thereof.
- (h) Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of a fire department, and the fire prevention division of a fire department, from requiring proof that any fire alarm has been fully tested by a state-licensed fire alarm contractor in accordance with applicable NFPA standards. A fire department, and the fire prevention division of any fire department, shall at times have such authority.
- (i) Nothing in this section shall require any personnel of a fire department to remain on the location of a fire alarm after the fire officer in charge at that location has determined that no fire has occurred or is in progress at that location.

Sec. 3 Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances

All ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Sec. 4 Severability

Should any part of this ordinance be declared null, void, invalid, illegal, or unconstitutional, the remainder of the said ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Whereupon, the above ordinance was read section by section and submitted to a vote, the vote thereon being as follows:

YEAS: Alderman Kenneth Picard and Alderwoman Sherry Howell
 NAYS: None
 ABSENT: Alderwoman Phyllis Johnson
 NOT VOTING: None

The above ordinance was declared adopted on the 24th day of July, 2018 at Maurice, Vermilion Parish, Louisiana to be effective upon publication.

The Village of Maurice

By: s/Wayne Theriot
 Mayor Wayne Theriot

By: s/Melanie Denais
 Melanie Denais, Municipal Clerk

I, Melanie Denais, City Clerk of the Village of Maurice do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of the ordinance adopted by the Board of Aldermen of the Village of Maurice, duly assembled in Maurice, Louisiana on the 24th day of July, 2018 at which time the quorum was present and voting.

Signed on this 25th day of July, 2018 at Maurice, Vermilion Parish, Louisiana.

The Village of Maurice

By: s/Melanie Denais
Melanie Denais, City Clerk

The Village of Maurice False Fire Alarm Warning Notification

After investigation by the responding Village of Maurice Fire Department it has been determined that a false fire alarm has occurred at your residence/business located at _____ on _____, 20____.

Cause of False Alarm (if known)

Please review the attached Village of Maurice False Fire Alarm Ordinance for information on possible penalties for excessive False Fire Alarms occurring at your location.

Responding Fire Department: Village of Maurice

Warning Issued By: _____

_____ (please print name)

Date: _____, 20____