

Town of Marlow, New Hampshire

False Alarm Ordinance

For Fire and Police

Purpose: A. The Marlow Police and Fire Departments have the responsibility of assuring that emergency alarm calls are answered as promptly and safely as possible. Persons or businesses that have an alarm system place a great deal of confidence in these Departments that any trouble arising at their home or place of business will be handled professionally and efficiently.

B. False alarms can negatively impact the efficiency and safety of these types of calls for service. Numerous false alarms can lead to complacency on the part of the responding officers and may put persons found on the premises (at the time of the false alarm) in a precarious situation.

C. The alarm holder, in conjunction with the Police and Fire Departments, has a responsibility to maintain and ensure that their alarm system is working properly. Through this ordinance, the Town of Marlow hopes to address this situation in a manner that will be beneficial to the Police and Fire Departments as well as the community.

False Alarms: A false alarm is defined as the activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, accidental tripping, operation malfunction, misuse, or the neglect of the owner or lessee of an alarm system, or of his employee or agent. Upon the failure of the Fire Department to find evidence of smoke or fire, or other legitimate need or cause for activation, a presumption of "false alarm" will be made. False alarm shall not include alarms caused by earthquakes, violent winds, or external causes beyond the control of the owner or lessee of the alarm system.

Fines: Any person or business who maintains or has an alarm connected to the Fire Department alarm system, to an alarm agent, alarm business or a person responding to audible alarms, which has caused any signal, message or alarm to be transmitted to the Marlow Fire or Police Departments either by direct telephone or other communication, and which is proven to be a false alarm shall pay a false alarm charge to the Town of Marlow as follows:

Fines for False Alarms to the Fire Department:

First two false alarms	no charge
Third through fifth false alarms	\$100.00 per alarm
Sixth alarm and over	\$200.00 per alarm

If there are no false alarms for one year, the record will reset.

Fines for False Alarms to the Police Department:

First two false alarms	no charge
Third through fifth false alarms	\$100.00 per alarm
Sixth alarm and over	\$200.00 per alarm

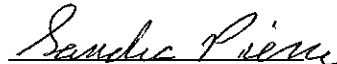

If there are no false alarms for one year, the record will reset.

After a false alarm has occurred, resulting in the fire department and/or police department getting called out, a warning letter will be sent to the property owner to ensure they're aware of the potential for fines after repeated false alarms.

The provisions of this ordinance replace any previous false alarm ordinances enacted for Fire and Police False Alarms.

Ordinance as approved on Nov. 20, 2023:

Marlow Select Board


Robert Allen, Chair
Sandra Pierre
John Luke