

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF WRIGHT  
TOWNSHIP OF ROCKFORD  
ORDINANCE NUMBER: 96-1

The Board of Supervisors of the Town of Rockford ordains as follows:

**Section 1:** Definitions. The following terms as used in this ordinance shall have the meanings stated:

1. "Alarm user" means the person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind, which is in control of any alarm system.
2. "Fire communications center" is the facility used to receive emergency requests for service and general information from the public to be dispatched to respective fire units.
3. "Alarm system" means and includes any and all alarm installations, including, but not limited to, those designed to be used for the prevention or detection of burglary, carbon monoxide, robbery, or fire on the premises, which contain the alarm installation. Automobile alarm devices shall not be considered an alarm system under the terms of this ordinance.
4. "False alarm" means an audio, visual, or electronically transmitted alarm signal eliciting a response by fire and rescue personnel when a situation requiring a response does not, in fact, exist, and which is caused by the activation of the alarm system through mechanical failure, alarm malfunction, improper installation or the actions of the owner or lessee of an alarm system or if his or her employees, agents, or invitees, or the actions of any persons on the premises where the alarm system is located. False alarms do not include alarms caused by climatic conditions of nature.

**Section 2:** False Alarm Fees

1. An alarm system, which reports to the fire communications center more than two false alarms within a single calendar year, will cause the alarm user to be charged a user fee for each false alarm in excess of two per calendar year. The user fee shall be \$200.00 per false alarm and shall be charged for the third false alarm and for each subsequent false alarm within one calendar year.
2. Any alarm user which is required by the Township to pay a user fee as the result of a false alarm may make a written appeal of the false alarm charge to the Township Clerk/Treasurer within ten days of the notice by the Township of the false alarm charge. The Township Clerk/Treasurer will have authority to make a final determination as to whether the appellant is to be charged.

**Section 3:** Payment of fees.

Payment of user fees must be paid to the Township Clerk/Treasurer within 30 days from the date of notice by the Township to the alarm user. Failure to pay the fee within 30 days will cause the alarm user to be considered delinquent and subject to a late payment charge in an amount not to exceed six percent per annum or as the Township shall determine. All fees not paid in thirty (30) days may be specially assessed to the property.

**Section 4:**     False Alarm Report Required

When an alarm user has incurred five false alarms or more within one calendar year, the alarm user shall submit a written report to the Township Clerk/Treasurer within ten days after being charged with the fifth false alarm, describing actions taken or to be taken to discover and eliminate the cause of the false alarm.

**Section 5:**     Automatic Dialing Devices Prohibited

No automatic dialing devices initiating a pre-recorded emergency alarm message shall be connected to the fire communications center through any telephone line, except when authorized by the Township Clerk/Treasurer or the Clerk/Treasurer designee.

**Section 6:**     International False Alarms Prohibited.

No person shall intentionally make, turn in, or give a false alarm or fire, or of need for police or ambulance assistance or aid or abet in the commission of such act.

**Section 7:**     Separability and Repealer.

All ordinances or portions of ordinances conflicting herewith are hereby repealed. Should any section of this ordinance be held unconstitutional or void, the remaining provision shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 8:**     Effective Date.

This ordinance becomes effective immediately upon its passage and publication according to law.

Enacted by the Board of Supervisors of the Town of Rockford, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 1996.

Karen McDougall  
Town Supervisor, Chairperson

Attest:  
James O. Taylor  
James O. Taylor, Town Clerk/Treasurer