

CHAPTER 10

BURGLARY AND ROBBERY ALARMS

ADMINISTRATION

10.005 Definitions. As used in BCC Chapter 10:

- (1) **"Alarm Business"** means selling, leasing, maintaining, or installing any alarm system in any building.
- (2) **"Alarm System"** means any device which signals entry or activity requiring emergency attention which is interconnected with the Law Enforcement Communications Center.
- (3) **"Alarm User"** means that person in control of premises having an alarm system.
- (4) **"Automatic Dialing Device"** means a device connected to a regular telephone line which is programmed to send a prerecorded voice message indicating a situation detected by an alarm system to a selected telephone number.
- (5) **"False Alarm"** means an alarm signal causing response by the Sheriff's Office where an emergency situation does not exist. Alarm signals occurring due to acts of God or due to off-premise causes are not false alarms. Determination of whether or not the alarm falls within the definition of false alarm is in the sole discretion of the Sheriff.
- (6) **"Sheriff"** means the Sheriff of Benton County, or his/her designee.
- (7) **"Emergency Telephone Line"** means a telephone line serving the Law Enforcement Communications Center that is designated by the Sheriff to receive emergency calls.
- (8) **"Law Enforcement Communications Center"** means the Benton County Sheriff's Office facility used to receive emergency and general information from the public. [Ord. 10, adopted May 5, 1976; Ord. 85-0002; Ord. 2011-0239]

ALARM USERS PERMITS

10.105 Alarm Users Permits Required.

- (1) All users of burglary alarm systems shall obtain an Alarm Users Permit from the Office of the Sheriff. Application for the alarm users permit must be filed with the Sheriff each year. Each permit will bear the signature of the issuing official and the Sheriff, and shall be valid until the following January 31. The permit shall be kept at the premises using the alarm system.
- (2) A residential alarm user who is the principal occupant of a residential premise will be required to obtain a permit within the 60 days after the need for the permit arises. [Ord. 2011-0239]

[10.105(3) deleted by Ord. 2011-0239]

10.110 Application Period. The application period shall be between January 1 and January 31 of each calendar year and the annual renewal of permits must be completed during this period. Permits issued as need exists during other times of any calendar year shall be valid only until the next regular application period and renewed again during the period of January 1 through January 31. [Ord. 10, adopted May 5, 1976]

DUTIES AND RESTRICTIONS

10.205 Alarm Business Duties.

(1) **Every** alarm business which sells or leases an alarm system served by the Law Enforcement Communications Center shall furnish the user with instructions enabling a user to operate the alarm system properly and which explains where to obtain service for the equipment.

(2) If **the** Sheriff determines that such information is inadequate, he/she may require the alarm business to revise the information and then to distribute the revised information to alarm users. [Ord. 10, adopted May 5, 1976; Ord. 85-0002]

10.305 Automatic Dialing Devices.

(1) No person shall program an automatic dialing device to select an emergency telephone line assigned to the Sheriff's Office. An alarm user shall reprogram an automatic dialing device which is programmed to select an emergency telephone line within twenty-four hours (24) of notice that it is so programmed.

(2) No person shall program an automatic dialing device which uses a pre-recorded voice message to any telephone number of the Law Enforcement Communications Center or which is assigned to the Sheriff.

(3) **Within** 60 days of the effective date of this Ordinance, all existing automatic dialing devices programmed to select a primary trunk line shall be reprogrammed or disconnected if such device is located within Benton County, excluding the corporate limits of the City of Corvallis. [Ord. 10, adopted May 5, 1976; Ord. 85-0002; Ord. 2011-0239]

10.310 False Alarms. False alarms are declared to be a public nuisance. A user is allowed two (2) false alarms within the valid term of a permit. Thereafter each false alarm shall subject the user to a service charge to be set by Board order. The false alarm fee is payable within 60 days of notification that such charge is due. Failure to pay a false alarm fee shall result in the user's permit being suspended and the termination of law enforcement response to the location. . [Ord. 10, adopted May 5, 1976; Ord. 85-0002; Ord. 2011-0239]

10.315 Equipment Testing. Whenever a user decides to test an alarm system, the user shall notify the Law Enforcement Communications Center prior to conducting the test. If a user fails to

notify the Communications Center, the test shall be considered a false alarm. [Ord. 10, adopted May 5, 1976; Ord. 85-0002]

ENFORCEMENT

10.405 Violation Citation. Pursuant to Chapter 31 of the Benton County Code, a person may be cited for violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance. [Ord. 10, adopted May 5, 1976; Ord. 99-0147; Ord. 2011-0239].