

## What is Considered an Alarm System?

An alarm system is a mechanical or electrical device that transmits or relays a signal intended to summon or reasonably expected to summon law enforcement and/or emergency services. This does not include: an alarm on a vehicle unless it is permanently located at the site; an alarm designed to only alert the individuals at the premises with no external alarm; and/or an alarm intended to summon personnel of a municipality.

## What is a False Alarm?

A false alarm is any signal or communication generated by or as a result of an alarm system which generates a response by emergency service providers in the unincorporated area of the County and upon which an investigation reveals there is no evidence or any indication of a crime or other activity which would warrant the need for immediate assistance. Alarms that are cancelled before law enforcement or other emergency personnel arrive shall not be considered a false alarm. Certain exclusions do apply: storms and other acts of God; disruption of telephone circuits; and/or failure of telephone equipment at the communication center. Proof of such will be required.

## Why Adopt a False Alarm Ordinance?

The purpose of the False Alarm Ordinance in Spartanburg County is to decrease the number of false alarms in the unincorporated areas of the County. Under this Ordinance, we can improve the effectiveness of our law enforcement and emergency services and maximize resources to the public. Through education and accountability, the number of repetitive false alarms can be reduced. Residents and business owners should ensure that all family members, employees, cleaning personnel, and any other authorized persons are educated on how to operate the alarm system and have the correct codes. Backup batteries should also be replaced on a regular basis in order to reduce false alarms during power surges or outages. Contact your alarm company with any questions that you may have regarding the operation or maintenance and upkeep of your alarm system. Two false alarms are allowed in any six (6) month period at no charge. However, each subsequent false alarm during such a period will have a progressive fee associated with it.

Spartanburg County Government  
Budget Management Room 900  
366 N. Church Street  
P.O. Box 5666  
Spartanburg, SC 29304



### Return Service Requested

**When:**  
October 27, 2009 3:00 pm  
November 10, 2009 6:00 pm  
November 18, 2009 11:00 am  
December 16, 2009 5:30 pm

**Where:** Spartanburg County Council Chambers

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# Spartanburg County

## YOUR ALARM SYSTEM MUST BE REGISTERED



**Important  
Information for Residential and  
Nonresidential  
Properties Regarding the New  
False Alarm Ordinance**

# ☰ False Alarm Ordinance



Spartanburg County Administration Building

The False Alarm Ordinance passed by Spartanburg County Council, outlines the responsibilities of the alarm companies, alarm users, and Spartanburg County staff. A designee of the County Administrator is authorized to make inspections of alarm systems and the premises where a system is located, and to make and enforce rules and regulations as are necessary to implement the provisions of this ordinance.

Did you know that the company monitoring your alarm must attempt to twice verify an alarm signal before requesting law enforcement dispatch? They will also be responsible for providing the permit number for the location and any special information needed by emergency responders. All of this information and much more is available in the Ordinance. A copy of the ordinance and False Alarm Guide is available at the Spartanburg County Administration Building in Room 900, the Information Desk, by mail, fax or online at [www.spartanburgcounty.org](http://www.spartanburgcounty.org).

## Alarm User Duties:

- Your alarm system must be registered in order for you to receive a permit from Spartanburg County. The permit is valid for one year and must be renewed each calendar year. There is no charge for registration, and information is available at the Administrative Offices or online at [www.spartanburgcounty.org](http://www.spartanburgcounty.org).
- Provide your alarm monitoring company with your permit number.
- Report any changes in registration information to Alarm Administrator within 10 days. This will ensure all emergency personnel have the correct information. Changes may be reported by completing a registration form and checking the update box in the top right corner of the form. This form is available at the Administrative Offices, by mail, fax, or online at [www.spartanburgcounty.org](http://www.spartanburgcounty.org).
- You or your authorized designee must respond to the location an alarm has been reported within one hour after notification. You or your designee must have right of entry to the premises and be available to secure the location if necessary.
- Your system must be inspected by a properly licensed alarm company after the 2nd and 4th false alarms within one calendar year. You will be required to provide proof of this inspection.
- Contact your monitoring company prior to manually activating your alarm for testing or other purposes not requiring an emergency response.

## Summary of False Alarm Charges

1st & 2nd Alarm	no charge
3rd, 4th & 5th	\$50.00 each
6th & 7th	\$100.00 each
8th & 9th	\$200.00 each
10th & up	\$500.00 each

*These charges are within any six (6) month period.*

## Additional Charges

Failure to Respond	\$100.00 each
Failure to Register	\$250.00 each
Late penalties	10% or \$10*

*\*whichever is greater*

*Any person, firm, corporation or agent who shall violate any of the provisions of the Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punishable by a fine not more than \$500 for each offense plus court cost or be imprisoned for not more than 30 days.*

**Spartanburg County Administrative Offices**  
**Budget Management Room 900**  
**366 North Church Street**  
**P.O. Box 5666**  
**Spartanburg, SC 29304**

**[www.spartanburgcounty.org](http://www.spartanburgcounty.org)**

### **Contact Information:**

**Phone: 864-596-3202**

**864-562-4416**

**Fax: 864-562-4050**

**E-mail: [falsealarm@spartanburgcounty.org](mailto:falsealarm@spartanburgcounty.org)**

**Have you had your alarm system serviced lately?**