

## What is Considered an Alarm System?

An alarm system is any single device or assembly of equipment designed to signal the occurrence of an illegal or unauthorized entry including any other illegal activity requiring immediate attention and to which law enforcement is requested to respond. This does not include motor vehicle or boat alarms, fire alarms, domestic violence alarms or alarms designed to elicit a medical response.

## What is a False Alarm?

False alarm means the activation of an alarm system through mechanical or electronic failure, malfunction, improper installation, or the negligence of the user (or his/her agent) and summons law enforcement personnel unless it was cancelled by the alarm user before personnel arrive at the alarm location. The alarm is considered false when evidence indicates that no unauthorized entry, robbery, or other such crime was committed or attempted in or on the premises which would have activated a properly functioning alarm system. A false alarm shall **not** include an alarm activated by unusually violent conditions of nature or other extraordinary circumstances not reasonably subject to control by the alarm user.

## Why Adopt an Alarm Ordinance?

The purpose of the 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 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.

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

**Return Service Requested**



**Spartanburg County**

***YOUR ALARM SYSTEM  
MUST BE REGISTERED***



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

# ☰ Alarm Ordinance



Spartanburg County Administration Building

The Alarm Ordinance passed by Spartanburg County Council, outlines the responsibilities of the alarm companies, alarm users, and Spartanburg County staff. Did you know that the company monitoring your alarm must attempt to twice verify an alarm signal before requesting law enforcement dispatch? They also must provide the name, address and telephone number of the alarm user or their designee who can be called in an emergency 24 hours a day.

All of this information and much more is available in the Ordinance which 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:

- Register your alarm system in order 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. The number should be provided to 911 Communications by the alarm company to facilitate dispatch.
- Maintain the premises and the alarm system in a method that will reduce or eliminate false alarms.
- Respond or have a representative respond to the system location within 30 minutes or a reasonable amount of time after being notified by Spartanburg County 911 Communications Center.
- Contact your monitoring company prior to manually activating your alarm for testing or other purposes not requiring an emergency response.
- Contact the Alarm Coordinators of any changes in the information provided on the permit application within 30 days of the change. This would include the transfer of ownership of the premises where the alarm system is located and maintained. Permits are not transferable.

## Summary of False Alarm Charges

1st & 2nd Alarm	no charge
3rd, 4th & 5th	\$50.00 each
6th & 7th	\$100.00 each
8th & 9th	\$250.00 each
10th & up	\$500.00 each

*These charges are within a permit year.*

## Additional Charges

Failure to Register	\$100.00
---------------------	----------

*A violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be a civil violation and shall not constitute a misdemeanor or infraction.*

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?**