

ORDINANCE NO. 1593

(AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF FALSE ALARMS.)

There is hereby added to the Hood River Municipal Code Chapter 8.42 entitled False Alarms which shall read as follows:

8.42.010. Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall mean:

"Alarm System" - Any assembly of equipment, mechanical or electrical, arranged to signal the occurrence of an unauthorized entry or activity requiring the urgent attention or emergency response by City resources to the presence of fire, smoke or unauthorized or illegal activity.

"Alarm User" - The person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, or organization of any kind which owns, occupies or controls any building, structure or facility wherein an alarm system is operated.

"False Alarm" - An alarm system signal to which City resources immediately respond with any personnel and/or equipment when a situation requiring such a response does not in fact exist, and which signal is caused by the inadvertence, negligence, intentional act or omission of an alarm user, or a malfunction of the alarm system. The following shall not be considered false alarms:

- a. Alarms caused by the testing, repair or malfunction of telephone or electrical equipment or lines not under the direct control of the alarm user if the malfunction is verified in writing within ten (10) days of the occurrence by a knowledgeable representative of the utility or other line provider involved.
- b. Alarms caused by an act of God, including earthquakes, floods, windstorms, thunder or lightning.
- c. Alarms caused by an attempted or unauthorized entry of which there is visible evidence, verified by the City.

"Dispatch Center" - The City dispatch center used to receive emergency and general information from the public and to dispatch the appropriate service department.

8.42.020. False Alarms, Alarm Testing.

It is unlawful for any person to own, operate, control, maintain, lease, rent or use an alarm system which generates more than four false alarms in any year. Each false alarm after the fourth alarm is a separate violation of this section.

Upon the receipt by the City of the first through fourth false alarms from any alarm system in a one year period, the Fire Administrative Officer shall notify the alarm user of that system in writing that a false alarm occurred at a particular date and time.

If a user contests the Fire Administrative Officer's determination that an alarm is a false alarm, the user must prove to the Fire Administrative Officer within ten (10) calendar days of the date of the notice of false alarm that the alarm was in fact not a false alarm. Failure to contest the determination in the required time period results in the conclusive presumption for all purposes that the alarm was a false alarm.

8.42.030. Penalties.

A violation of any provision of this chapter is a civil infraction and shall result in the requirement that the violator pay the minimum fine established pursuant to a minimum fine schedule for violations of this chapter as established by City Council resolution.

Read for the first time: December 23, 1987

Read for the second time: January 11, 1988

11<sup>th</sup> PASSED by the Council of the City of Hood River this day of January, 1988.

Wanda L. Mathis  
Wanda L. Mathis, City Recorder

11<sup>th</sup> APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Hood River this day of January, 1988.

A. Michael Maurer  
A. Michael Maurer, Mayor  
City of Hood River