CHAPTER 403

ALARM SYSTEMS ORDINANCE
Town of Yarmouth, Maine
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ALARM SYSTEMS ORDINANCE

ARTICLE I

A. TITLE
This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “Alarm Systems Ordinance of the Town of Yarmouth, Maine.”

B. PURPOSE
The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish appropriate guidelines for the installation of alarm systems for notification of the Town of Yarmouth’s Department of Public Safety.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. Alarm System: A system including any mechanism, equipment or device designed to automatically transmit or cause the transmission of a signal, message or warning from a private facility to any of the Town's public alarm systems or to the Communication Center, or to cause the activation of an audible device whose purpose or result is to obtain emergency response by the Department of Public Safety.

2. Permanently Connected Alarm System: An alarm system which transmits a signal to the Communications Center or other location by means of a wire or cable connection or radio equipment which is used only or primarily for that purpose.

3. Telephonic Alarm System or “Dialer”: An alarm system which operates automatically through the use of public telephone facilities to connect to a telephone within the Communications Center or other location.

4. Audible Alarm System: An alarm system which cause an audible signal to sound at or near the alarm premises, for the purpose of obtaining emergency response by the Department of Public Safety.

5. Non-Emergency Alarms: Signals transmitted by an alarm system as a result of human error or equipment malfunction.

ARTICLE II

A. PERMITS

1. No person shall operate or maintain an alarm system as defined in ARTICLE I without first obtaining a permit.
2. The Town Manager shall be authorized to institute such guidelines as he/she deems desirable for determining the installation procedures for alarm systems.

3. Applications for permits to install, maintain or operate an alarm system shall be filed with the Town Manager or his/her designee, on forms supplied by the Town. Said applications shall set forth the name, address, and telephone number of both the installer of the systems and the person or business on whose premises the system will be installed, as well as a description of the system and the location where it is proposed to be installed. The application shall also set forth the name, address, and telephone number of at least three individuals who have keys or access to the premises and/or alarm equipment. Permits shall be renewed annually, on the same form as is used for the original application, and the person applying for renewal shall indicate thereon any changes in the information already supplied.

4. The application fee for a permanently connected alarm system shall be fifteen dollars ($15.00), and fee for such permit shall be five dollars ($5.00).

5. The application fee for a telephonic alarm system permit shall be twenty dollars ($20.00), and fee for such permit shall be twenty dollars ($20.00).

6. There shall be no application fee or renewal fee for a permit for an audible alarm system.

7. The Town Manager shall approve such application if he/she finds that said alarm system will not interfere with the orderly conduct of Town business; and that the person installing the system maintains an adequate service organization to repair, maintain or otherwise service alarm systems sold, leased, or installed by him.

8. The Town Manager may impose other reasonable conditions on the exercise of said permits and shall retain final authority to decide the reasonableness of any other conditions.

9. The Town Manager, or his/her designee, shall have the sole right to inspect, or cause to be inspected by the system installer, any alarm system on premises where it is intended to function prior to issuance of any permit for operation of such system, and he/she may inspect or cause an inspection, by the system installer or individual qualified in alarm systems installation, of such system at any time after the issuance of a permit to determine whether it is being used in conformity with the terms of the permit and the provision of this Ordinance.

10. No person shall install, operate or maintain a telephonic alarm system which automatically transmits or causes transmission of a signal, message or warning to the Town’s Communications Center telephone lines, except to such telephone number or numbers as designated by the permit issued under the provisions of
this Ordinance. The Town Manager may refuse to issue a permit for such a system if in his/her opinion the existing telephone capacity of the Communications Center is not sufficient to accommodate the new system. No more than six such permits will be issued for each available incoming telephone line at the Communications Center or other reception point. Furthermore, no such system shall be designed or adjusted to make more than two (2) calls per incident to the Communications Center.

11. The Town Manager may revoke any permit issued pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance, after giving written notice to the permit holder and an opportunity for the permit holder to be heard, if he/she determines that the alarm system installed pursuant to said permit has been installed, maintained, or operated in violation of the provisions of this Ordinance, or of any term of condition of said permit, or for failure to pay any fee specified in

ARTICLE III

A. TRANSMISSION OF NON-EMERGENCY ALARMS

1. Any permit holder whose system causes the transmission of a non-emergency alarm more than three (3) times in any one calendar year period shall pay a fine as described in ARTICLE IV Section IV.A for each instance of a non-emergency alarm in excess of three (3) such alarms in any one calendar year period.

2. Any permit holder whose system causes the transmission of two or more non-emergency alarms within a twenty-four hour period shall, upon request, immediately disconnect the system, and shall not reconnect it until it has been inspected in accordance with Section II.A.9 of this Ordinance.

3. If after reasonable effort the Town is unable to locate and notify the permit holder or installer of a system which has transmitted two or more non-emergency alarms within a twenty-four hour period, the Town shall have the right to disconnect the system from the Communications Center without prior notice to the permit holder. The Town shall make a reasonable effort to notify the permit holder by mail of any action taken under this Section.

4. Upon receipt of an alarm message or signal from an alarm system for which a permit has been issued under this Ordinance, and subject to the availability of and equipment, the Town will dispatch representatives of the Department of Public Safety to the alarm location to take appropriate action. If the premises in which the alarm system is installed appear to be secure and there is no evidence to indicate that there is an emergency situation requiring the presence or action of the Department of Public Safety, the Town’s obligation to the permit holder shall have been discharged upon completion of one telephone call to the permit holder, the system installer, or any of the individuals named on the permit application as required in Section II.A.3 of this Ordinance.
ARTICLE IV

A. FINES

1. Burglary Alarms $25.00
2. Fire Alarms $100.00

B. PENALTY
Whoever violates any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction therefore, be punished of not more than one hundred dollars ($100.00).