

History of the Alarm Ordinance

The Indian Trail Town Council adopted an Alarm Ordinance on June 12, 2007. The focus of this ordinance is to reduce the number of false alarms that Union County Sheriff Officers respond to. **In 2012, 63 % of all alarms reported were false activations.** Responding to false alarms results in a cost of emergency services personnel, time and equipment. In addition, when responding to false alarms, officers may be delayed in responding to true emergencies or situations in which a crime has actually occurred. This ordinance allows for the issuance of permits, establishes fees and fines, provides penalties for violations, and initiates a public education program.

The Alarm Permit

All homeowners and business owners having an alarm system that draws public attention, whether or not it is monitored, are required to obtain an Alarm Permit.

Alarm Permit applications and renewal forms are available at the Indian Trail Administrative Services office, may be sent via mail, fax, or electronic mail upon request or downloaded from the Town of Indian Trail website, www.indiantrail.org

Your permit is valid for a 12-month period beginning on the day and month on which the permit is issued and must be renewed annually. Permit applications and payments may be submitted in person or mailed to:

Town of Indian Trail
Alarm Permit Registration
PO Box 2430
Indian Trail, NC 28079



Initial Permit Registration

Residential	\$ 5.00
Non Residential	\$30.00
Renewal	Same as above

False Alarm Fee Schedule

Billable to alarm users for response to false alarms. Remember, fees apply **ONLY** if Sheriff officers are dispatched, arrive on the scene and the alarm is **FALSE**.

Fines for Response to False Alarms

1 -2	\$0
3-5	\$50 per occurrence
6-7	\$100 per occurrence
8-9	\$250 per occurrence
10 or more	\$500 per occurrence

What is a False Alarm?

The ordinance defines a false alarm as: the activation of an alarm system through mechanical or electronic failure, malfunction**, improper installation or the negligence of the alarm user, his/her employees, or agents, and signals activated to summon law enforcement personnel unless the alarm user or his/her agent canceled law enforcement response before law enforcement personnel arrive at the alarm location.

**When reviewing our False Alarm report provided by the Union County Sheriffs Office, we do not consider a "weather related" alarm malfunction as a False Alarm.

Tips to Prevent False Alarms

- Register your system on time.
- Know the procedures your alarm company wants you to use to cancel a false alarm.
- Make sure that anyone who has a key to your premises is fully trained to use the system.
- **CLOSE** and **LOCK** your doors and windows **BEFORE** activation of your alarm. Unlocked doors are the main cause of false alarms.
- Restrict pets to areas without motion detectors.
- Check your systems batteries.
- Know that motion detectors can be activated by drafts from fans and air conditioners which cause movement of helium balloons, decorations, curtains, etc.

Your Alarm Company's Responsibility

In an effort to reduce false alarms, your alarm company is required by the ordinance to take certain measures:

Your monitoring company must attempt to verify alarms by contacting the alarm site before requesting law enforcement dispatch.

If your monitoring company determines during verification that the alarm is false, they must attempt to cancel officer dispatch.

Communicate any available information about the location of the alarm.

Collect and provide upon request the Indian Trail updated alarm permit information, including alarm permit registration number.