

## Chapter 128 Fire Prevention

### Article II Fire Alarms

#### 128-10 False Fire Alarm Penalties

False fire alarms disrupt the community; cause complacency and business down time due to evacuations, and divert responders away from genuine emergencies, which could potentially lead to loss of life and property. The main reason for false alarms in the City of Sanford is lack of maintenance to the alarm systems. This ordinance will hold property owners accountable for the maintenance of their alarm systems. This ordinance will not pertain to actual alarms that operated correctly for proper reasons.

1. First and second responses: For the first and second responses by the Sanford Fire Department to a false alarm within any calendar year, the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) shall give written notice of the second false alarm to the alarm user within 10 days.
2. Third response: For the third response by the Sanford Fire Department to a false alarm within any calendar year, the AHJ shall give written notice of the third false alarm to the alarm user within 10 days. The alarm user shall file a written report with the AHJ within 7 days thereafter stating the cause of the false alarm, if known, and describing the corrective action taken. In addition the alarm user may be required to pay an alarm penalty fee of \$50.00.
3. Fourth, fifth and sixth response: For the fourth, fifth and sixth responses by the Sanford Fire Department to a false alarm within any calendar year, the alarm user shall pay a false alarm penalty fee of \$250.00 per event. In the case of equipment failure, the user must file with the AHJ, within 7 days of notice, a signed statement by a qualified private alarm agent that the alarm system has been inspected and is in proper working order. In case of human error or other cause, the alarm user shall file a written report with the AHJ describing the corrective action taken.
4. Seventh and subsequent responses: For the seventh and subsequent responses by the Sanford Fire Department to a false alarm within any calendar year, the alarm user shall pay the false alarm penalty of \$500.00 per event. The alarm users property may be shut down until proper repairs are done should the AHJ deem the property a safety issue to the public or employees of the property.
5. Written notice deemed complete: Written notice by the AHJ shall be complete upon leaving such notice at the property at the time of response by the Fire Department or mailing such notice to the alarm user at the users last known address within 10 days by first class mail.

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

Calendar year: Calendar year shall mean January 1 through December 31 of each year.

AHJ: Authority having jurisdiction: The Fire Chief or his or her designee responsible for the enforcement of the fire codes for the City of Sanford.