



Because of an increasing burden of fire department responses to buildings with alarm systems, the Bellevue City Council has adopted an ordinance charging fees for alarms which are considered preventable. The intent is to encourage maintenance and needed modification of alarm systems and discourage careless acts that result in alarm activation. This in turn should increase the availability of fire department resources to respond to legitimate emergencies.

Such alarms include those caused by:

Improper type, installation, sensitivity, or maintenance of automatic detectors.

Improper installation (including unapproved or incompatible components) or maintenance of fire alarm systems including systems with no apparent reasons for repetitious alarms.

Erroneous transmission of an alarm including the reporting of trouble signals by fire alarm monitoring companies.

Work on a fire system or automatic extinguishing system connected to an alarm system when **reasonable steps** were not taken to prevent reporting of an alarm to the fire department.

Fire drills or tests of alarm or extinguishing systems when reasonable steps were not taken to prevent reporting of an alarm to the fire department.

Work including painting, welding, cleaning, cooking, dust producing or other activities which could activate a fire alarm detector.

Smoke or fumes resulting from closed fireplace dampers, cooking activities, smoking of tobacco products, etc., including opening a door to a corridor equipped with detectors for the purpose of ventilating such smoke or fumes.

There is no fee for the first preventable false alarm during the calendar year.

A fee of \$100.00 will be charged for the second preventable response to an alarm, and \$150.00 for each subsequent preventable response during a calendar year.

If there are more than six preventable responses during a year, the City may recover actual costs. This would include operating expenses of at least 2 units of heavy fire department apparatus, not less than 6 personnel plus administrative costs.

Appeals of fees for preventable responses must be filed with the Building Official within 30 days of the billing date.

Bellevue City Code Section No.23.10.1387 states that all sensory mechanisms and components of alarm systems shall be adjusted or otherwise protected to suppress false signals so that alarms will not be activated by impulses due to transient pressure changes, electrical power surges or failures or restoration after failure, radio frequency interference, short flashes of light, normal room temperature changes, effects of wind rattling or vibrating doors or windows, vehicular noises, or other causes unrelated to genuine signals.

For additional information or questions contact the Bellevue Fire Prevention Division of the Bellevue Fire Department at 425-452-6872.