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CHAPTER 8.04 ALARM SYSTEMS

8.04.010 Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to regulate and control the installation, operation and maintenance of private alarm systems within the Township in order to insure that the quality of alarm responses rendered to the public will be maintained at a high level, to eliminate potential harm resulting in responses to false alarms, and to alleviate conditions otherwise leading to unnecessary drain on the manpower, time, space, facilities, and finances of the Township and its police and volunteer fire departments. (Ord. 89-33 § 2)

8.04.020 Scope.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide standards and regulations for various types of intrusion, burglary, fire and other emergency alarm equipment which produce a visual or audible signal or function by direct line, radio, telephone or by any other means requiring a response by the police department, volunteer fire department or other municipal agencies.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to alarm businesses and to any person who operates, maintains or owns any alarm device, dial alarm, or local alarm designed to produce a visual or audible signal of an emergency and designed to summon or alert, directly or through others, the police, fire service, or other municipal agencies in response to any type of alarm signal. (Ord. 89-33 § 3)

8.04.030 Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this chapter unless otherwise specifically stated:

Alarm business - any business operated by a person, partnership, corporation or other individual or entity which engages in the activity of altering, installing, leasing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, selling, servicing or responding to a fire or burglar alarm systems(s) or which causes any of these activities to take place. Excluded from this definition however are retail establishments which sell alarm systems over the counter and do not service same.

Alarm device - any type of alarm-activating equipment which provides warning of burglary, intrusion, fire, flood or like peril.

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8.04.030 Definitions.

Alarm system - equipment or a device, or an assembly of equipment and devices to signal the presence of an emergency or hazard requiring urgent attention and to which the Police Department, fire department or other municipal agency may be expected to respond.

Alarm user - any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization or entity of any kind in control of any building, structure or facility wherein an alarm device or system is maintained, and including but not limited to owners, tenants, subtenants or otherwise.

Chief of Police - the Chief of Police of the Township or his or her designated representative.

Designated representative - the designated representative of the Chief of Police or the Fire Official who performs a function required or permitted by this chapter under the supervision of the Chief of Police or the Fire Official.

Dial alarm - any type of alarm system using telephone lines, transmitting an alarm directly through the communications switchboard, answering service, or alarm company console, providing warning of intrusion, fire or other peril.

False alarm - any alarm or signal of an alarm actuated by inadvertence, negligence, intentional or unintentional act of a person, domestic animal and/or household pet other than an intruder, and including alarms caused by mechanical failure, malfunction or improper installation of the alarm system and related equipment. It shall further include improper adjustment (sensitivity) to suppress false indications due to short flashes of light, wind, noises, rattling or vibrations of doors or other forces.

Fire alarm equipment - includes the following:

1. Devices which automatically detect heat, smoke or other products of combustion;
2. Manual systems which actuate a fire alarm signal;
3. Mechanical systems designed and equipped to detect fires, actuate and alarm, and suppress such fires, to include water flow alarms.

Fire official - the fire marshal of the Township or his or her designated representative.

Fire services - authorized fire companies providing fire protection and suppression to the Township.

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8.04.040 Registration of Alarm System.

Independent smoke detector - a device having an audible alarm indicating smoke and/or having an audible alarm indicating smoke and/or fire within a structure and not connected to an alarm system or to any external sounding device outside of the structure.

Local alarm - any alarm system, which, when activated, produces a signal not connected to an alarm console or the communication switchboard, including, but not limited to business burglar alarms actuating bell or other sound generating devices and/or light emitting devices providing warning of intrusion or other peril. The term local alarm shall not include an alarm system solely connected to a registered motor vehicle, nor shall the term include equipment designed to signal solely within a building or series of buildings and which does not emit signals, visible or audible, to persons outside such building or buildings, i.e., independent smoke detector.

Licensee - the person who holds the license to install, operate and maintain the alarm/alarm console pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

Person - any natural person or individual, or any firm, partnership, association, limited partnership, sole proprietorship, corporation or any other business entity.

Permittee - any person who owns an alarm device who has obtained a permit according to the provisions of this chapter. All permits shall be issued and fees paid therefore on a one time basis.

Written notice - notice by certified mail, return receipt requested.
(Ord. 98-42 § 8; Ord. 89-33 § 4)

8.04.040 Registration of Alarm System.

- A. No person shall install, operate or maintain any alarm system unless the alarm system has been registered with the Township Police Department. The Police Department shall provide a copy of all approved registration forms to the Township Fire Official.
- B. An alarm system shall be deemed registered at such time as a registration form supplied by the Police Department is completed as to all information requested therein. Among the information to be provided on the registration form is the following: (a) the name, address and telephone number of the owner or tenant or occupier of the property if other than the owner, upon which the alarm system is installed; (b) the name, address and telephone number of the installer of the system; (c) the type of system; (d) a list of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the person(s) to be contacted in the event of an alarm or in an emergency situation determined by the Police or Fire Department; (e) the names, address and twenty-

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four (24) hour telephone numbers of the persons or company maintaining the alarm system.

- C. No further renewal registration shall be required unless and until there has occurred any material change in the information previously submitted with respect to any alarm system in which event it shall be the duty of the owner and user of the alarm system within ten (10) days of such material change, to file a supplemental or revised registration containing accurate, current information.
- D. A one-time fee in the amount of ten dollars (\$10.00) shall accompany each registration. Change or re-registration for new owners or users, there shall be a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00). Upon payment of the fee and filing of the registration, two decals will be issued. The decals will be placed in plain view, near the front/main entrance and rear/secondary entrance of the premises.
- E. All pre-existing alarm systems shall comply with the requirements of this section within sixty (60) days of the date of the final adoption of the ordinance codified in this chapter.

Excluded from this provision are independent smoke detectors that do not emit an audible or visible signal outside of the structure.
(Ord. 89-33 § 5)

8.04.050 New Alarm Systems; Installation, Activation and Operation.

- A. Each alarm system as defined in this chapter and installed after the effective date of this chapter shall utilize discrete circuitry for multipurpose alarm systems to insure appropriate emergency response.
- B. Any alarm system which requires for its operation electricity supplied by a public utility may be equipped with a battery rendering it operable in the event of a power outage if so desired by the property owner. Such a battery back-up shall be required for any alarm system which will trigger itself automatically in the event of a power outage.
- C. Every alarm system must be provided with a device which will shut off the alarm ten minutes of activation.
- D. Every burglar alarm system shall be equipped with a time delay of at least fifteen seconds which may include an audible signal of the same length of time, said time delay to be designed to prevent accidental activation of the system. The fifteen (15) second audible signal, if utilized, shall be audible only within the structure and not externally.

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8.04.050 New Alarm Systems; Installation, Activation and Operation.

- E. No alarm system may be connected directly or indirectly to the Police or Fire Departments.
- F. No person shall install, cause to be installed; or permit to be installed, any alarm device by whatever name known, which automatically selects a telephone line dedicated to the Police or Fire Department for the purpose of playing a recorded message to report any emergency. All alarm systems shall be programmed to dial Hunterdon County communications at (201) 782-0911.
- G. All dial alarms shall be capable of being disconnected to allow a call to Police Headquarters or Hunterdon County communications in the event of a false alarm.
- H. No police, fire or other public department or official shall be responsible in any way for the resetting or maintenance of any alarm system.
- I. No alarm business or person owning, using or possessing an alarm system shall cause or permit the giving of repeated false alarms, for test purposes or otherwise, whether intentional, accidental or otherwise. Owners/operators of such alarms shall be governed by the false alarm procedures and penalties set forth in this chapter.
- J. If any person has any dial alarm connected at the time of the effective date of this chapter, it shall be reprogrammed within thirty (30) days of said effective date to comply with this chapter.
- K. The contents of a dial alarm message shall be clear and intelligible and in the format approved by the Chief of Police or Fire Official. No such message shall be transmitted more than two times as a result of a single stimulus of the mechanism. Messages shall not exceed fifteen (15) seconds and the time gap between each shall not exceed ten seconds.
- L. The sensory mechanism of dial alarms shall be adjusted so as to suppress false indications and not be actuated by impulses due to short flashes of light, wind, noises, rattling or vibration of doors or other forces unrelated to general alarms.
- M. Permits for local alarm systems shall not be issued with respect to buildings which are not owner-occupied, prior to receipt by the Chief of Police of satisfactory proof that the occupant of the building has been notified of the existence of such alarm system, or of the intent to install a local alarm system and the provisions of this chapter.
- N. By installing an alarm system and registering same with the Township, each permittee agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Township and the volunteer Fire Department of Raritan Township and mutual aid departments, their agents, servants and employees from and against any and all claims, suits, damages, costs, losses and expenses, and to release the Township, the volunteer Fire Department of

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8.04.060 Confidentiality.

Raritan Township and mutual aid departments, their agents, servants and employees from any and all liability or damages in any way resulting from or arising out of or connected with the installation, operation or maintenance of the alarm system or any act or omission connected therewith.

- O. Any alarm business and/or property owner having knowledge of the sale or change of tenants in a property shall be responsible for notifying the Police Department when one of its customers possessing an alarm system sells the property or changes tenants. The alarm business shall notify the Police Department of the name of the new owner or tenant and whether or not the new owner or tenant is continuing with an alarm device or system within the property.
(Ord. 89-33 § 6)

8.04.060 Confidentiality.

All information submitted in compliance with this chapter shall be held in the strictest confidence and shall be deemed a record exempt from public disclosure pursuant to state statute. Any violation of confidentiality shall be deemed a violation of this chapter.
(Ord. 89-33 § 7)

**8.04.070 Failure to Register or Install a System in Compliance With Chapter—
Fines.**

- A. Any person who fails to register an alarm system as required by the provisions of this chapter is subject to a minimum of fifty dollars (\$50.00) and maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) fine, for each and every violation.
- B. Any owner, user or alarm business who installs such a system that is not in compliance with this chapter is subject to a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) and may be required to remove such an alarm system.
(Ord. 89-33 § 8(1), (2))

8.04.080 False Alarms and Fines.

- A. In the case of each false alarm which summons the Police or Fire Department to respond, the Police Chief or Fire Official as appropriate shall cause an investigation to be made and shall keep a record of such false alarms on file.
- B. In the event of the occurrence of three false alarms within a twelve (12) month period, the permittee shall within three (3) days after written notice to do so from the Chief of Police, complete a written report setting forth the cause or causes of the false alarms, the corrective action taken and a statement as to whether the alarm

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8.04.090 Intentional False Alarms and Penalty.

system has been inspected and/or serviced by an alarm service company, and such other information as the Chief of Police may reasonably require.

- C. Owners and/or users of alarm systems shall be subject to the following minimum fine schedule for false alarms:

Number of False Alarms	Minimum Fine/Penalty
1-3	Provide written report (As per subsection B of this section)
4	\$25.00
5-10	\$50.00 per occurrence
10 or more	\$100.00 per occurrence

The calculation of the number of false alarms shall be without regard to whether the false alarms involved intrusion alarms or fire alarms. (Ord. 89-33 § 8(3)—(5))

8.04.090 Intentional False Alarms and Penalty.

Any person who intentionally causes the giving of false alarm shall be in violation of this chapter and subject to a penalty of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and/or imprisonment for any term not to exceed ninety (90) days, and/or by a period of community service not to exceed ninety (90) days, for each such offense. (Ord. 89-33 § 9)

8.04.100 Testing Alarms.

Any person testing an alarm system covered by the provisions of this chapter shall notify the Police Department and Hunterdon County communications immediately prior to and immediately after the testing is completed. Failure to do so shall constitute a violation of this chapter and subject such person to the penalties set forth in this chapter. (Ord. 89-33 § 10(1))

8.04.110 Administration Cooperation:

The Chief of Police and Fire Official shall cooperate in all respects in connection with the administration of this chapter and the forms, permits, decals, records and other documents used by the Chief of Police. (Ord. 89-33 § 10(2))

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8.04.120 Promulgation of Rules and Regulations.

8.04.120 Promulgation of Rules and Regulations.

The Chief of Police may from time to time promulgate rules and regulations in furtherance of the administration of this chapter which shall be enforced through the Police Department. Such rules and regulations shall become effective upon approval by resolution of the Township Committee. (Ord. 89-33 § 10(3))

8.04.130 Enforcement of Chapter Provision; Violation and Penalty.

The Township Chief of Police is designated as officer in charge of the enforcement of this chapter. The Governing Body may designate such assistant enforcement officers for purposes of the enforcement of this chapter as are needed for such purposes. The enforcement officer shall have the authority to use the services of the Police Department or any public authority to enforce the chapter.

Any person violating the provisions of this chapter shall be subject, upon conviction thereof, to the penalties as provided in this chapter and in chapter 1.08. (Ord. 89-40 § 1: Ord. 89-33 § 11)