

Alarm System Information

Nationwide, 98.4% of the time when police are dispatched for an alarm call, it is false. The Village of New Albany is no different. A relatively low number of business and residential addresses generate the vast majority of repeat false alarm calls.

False alarms cost the Village of New Albany and its citizens thousands of dollars per year and take police officers away from actual emergencies. To prevent unnecessary emergency response to false alarms, the Village adopted an ordinance encouraging all alarm users to properly maintain all alarm equipment.

The Village of New Albany Ordinance 705 requires business and residential alarm users to register their systems with the police department for no charge. The fees for excessive false alarms will be assessed during each registration period as follows: Each false alarm in a calendar year in excess of three (3) but fewer than nine (9) is \$25.00; for nine (9) and more is \$50.00 for each alarm per year. A permit may be revoked when excess of nine (9) false alarms occur within a one-year period. The ordinance also requires each alarm permit holder to notify the Chief of Police in writing of any changes of information on the alarm permit application within 10 days of the change.

What do you do if your alarm accidentally goes off? If you have accidentally tripped your alarm, you should first contact your alarm company. Do not call the police department. Our policy states that we cannot cancel a response from the homeowner, it must come from the alarm company. If the call is cancelled before our officers arrive on scene, this will not accrue as a "false alarm". If you were unable to cancel the alarm with your alarm company, please be prepared to meet the officer at your front door and advise of the situation.

How will you know if we have responded to your home or business on an alarm if you were away? The police department will produce a false alarm notification and leave a copy for your records.

Alarms are a good crime prevention tool and their use is encouraged. Your help in reducing the number of false alarms is appreciated. Please make sure your alarm system is maintained on a regular basis, and that all who have access to the alarm system know how to use it properly.

For more information on the Village of New Albany Alarm Ordinance and alarm permits visit our website at www.newalbanypolice.org or call 855.1234.