

CHAPTER 17

ALARM SYSTEMS

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SEC. 17-1. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Alarm Business" means the business by any individual, partnership, or corporation consisting of selling, leasing, maintaining, or inspecting, servicing, repairing, moving or installing any alarm system in or on any building, structure, or facility.
- B. "Alarm System" means any mechanical or electrical device which is designed or used for the detection of any authorized entry of a building, structure, or facility or for alerting others of the commission of an unlawful act within a building, structure, or facility, or both; and which emits a sound or transmits a signal or message when actuated and to which police are expected to respond. For purposes of this ordinance, alarm systems shall include the term audible alarm, automatic dialing device, burglar alarm system, holdup alarm system, and fire alarm system.
- C. "Answering Service" means a telephone answering business providing among its services, receiving on a continuous basis through trained employees, emergency signals from alarm systems and thereafter immediately relaying the message by live voice over a single channel circuit to the communications center of the Sheriff's Department.
- D. "Automatic Dialing Device" means an alarm system which automatically sends over regular telephone lines by direct connection or otherwise a prerecorded voice message or coded signal indicating the existence of the emergency situation that the alarm system is designed to detect.

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- E. "Primary Trunkline" means a telephone line leading into the communications center of the Sheriff's department that is for the purpose of emergency calls on a person to person basis, as identified by a specific listing among the emergency numbers in a telephone director.

SEC. 17-2. STANDARDS

- A. Alarm systems permitted direct access to the Sheriff's department alarm display panel shall be limited to those required by Federal and/or State Law, and those alarm systems protecting the Scott County Courthouse complex, as approved by the Board of Supervisors.
- B. The Sheriff of Scott County, Iowa may prescribe reasonable minimum standards and regulations for this construction and maintenance of all alarm systems installed with direct access to the Sheriff's department alarm display panel(s).

SEC. 17-3. AUDIBLE ALARMS

All alarm systems that emit an audible signal that is intended to be heard by persons outside the protected building, structure, or facility shall conform to the following:

- A. Every person maintaining an audible alarm shall provide to the Sheriff the name and telephone number of such person or persons who shall be notified to render repairs or service and secure the premises during any hour of the day or night when the alarm system is activated.
- B. No alarm business or person shall install an audible alarm system which creates a sound similar to that of an emergency vehicle or civil defense warning siren.
- C. No alarm business or person shall install an audible alarm which does not automatically discontinue emitting an audible sound within fifteen (15) minutes after it has been activated.

SEC. 17-4. AUTOMATIC DIALING DEVICES

No alarm system using an automatic dialing device shall send a prerecorded voice message or coded signal over a primary trunkline or direct line into the communications center of the Sheriff's department of Scott County, Iowa. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit an automatic dialing device manually initiated by a person on the premises in response to a bonafide medical or

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fire emergency.

SEC. 17-5. POLICE ALARMS

No alarm system designed to transmit a message on the Sheriff's department base station radio frequencies shall be allowed, except as may be authorized by the Sheriff of Scott County, Iowa.

SEC. 17-6. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALARM

Every person who controls or owns an alarm system, of whatever nature shall, upon notification that the alarm system is giving a signal, proceed immediately to the premises and render all necessary assistance to disengage the alarm system.

SEC. 17-7. MODIFICATION OF EXISTING ALARMS

With respect to systems in existence on the effective date of this chapter, the owner thereof shall have ninety (90) days to effect necessary modifications to comply with this chapter.

SEC. 17-8. PENALTY

Any person, firm, or corporation violating any provision of this ordinance shall be subject to the penalty of a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or incarceration for not more than thirty (30) days.