

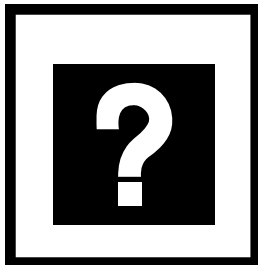
## Fines and Fees



False Alarms within a permit year for the same alarm permit shall be subject to the following fines:

- 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> = Free
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> = \$50 fine.
- 5<sup>th</sup> = \$75 fine.
- 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> = \$100 fine.
- The tenth and all subsequent false alarms shall each be assessed a \$500 fine.

The permit application cost is \$25 with a yearly \$25 renewal.



For more information, and to download an alarm application, please log onto [www.pbso.org](http://www.pbso.org). You may also contact the Alarm Unit by phone at (561) 688-3695.

P A L M B E A C H C O U N T Y  
S H E R I F F ' S O F F I C E

### ALARMS UNIT

3200 Belvedere Road, #1169  
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PALM BEACH COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ric L. Bradshaw, Sheriff

## False Alarms



Tel: 561-688-3695

## Alarm Enforcement Unit

The Alarm Enforcement Unit was established in 1988 for the purpose of reducing and regulating the amount of False Alarms that Palm Beach County Sheriff's Deputies respond to. Due to False Alarms, deputies have less time to handle legitimate calls for service (emergency and non-emergency), investigate genuine crimes, provide proactive patrol, and back up other deputies in emergency situations. False alarms also tie up phone lines and dispatchers in our communications center, thus making it harder for citizens to get through when they call.

Alarms will generally be dispatched with two deputies responding. Panic, Silent and Hold Up Alarms may require more deputies as well as specialized units such as Canine. Depending on the location and type of alarm, it can take 20 to 45 minutes to respond to and complete a false alarm call. In 2005, the Sheriff's Office responded to over 25,000 false alarms. This all adds up to hundreds of thousands of dollars spent and hours of wasted manpower that could be used to better serve our citizens.

As you can see, the burden of false alarms affects not only Sheriff's Office personnel, but also you, the taxpayer, who pays the bill for false alarms regardless of if you have had any false alarms or even own an alarm system. You can help reduce the number of false alarms by becoming familiar with what causes them and the prevention techniques that can reduce them. We have compiled some tips and resources to show you how.

## Tips for Avoiding False Alarms

1. If you accidentally activate your alarm
2. a. Stay off the phone and wait for the alarm company to call your premise.  
b. Have your password available.  
c. Do not leave your premise until you are sure the police have been cancelled. **Remember, only the monitoring company, not the alarm user, can make cancellations.**
3. Only those who know how to operate your alarm system should be given a key to your premise. Teach all family members, employees and service personnel on proper use of the alarm system and be sure they understand the cancellation process as well.
4. Have all loose fitting doors and windows with alarm sensors tightened. A loose fit may break the sensor contact even without opening the door or window.
5. Keep pets, balloons, fans, curtains, seasonal decorations, or any other object capable of moving, away from alarm sensors.
6. Be sure you have at least one representative, with access to your home and alarm system, available to respond and de-activate your system in case you are unavailable.
7. Keep changes in emergency contact information current with your alarm company.
8. Your alarm system must have battery back-up supply. Be sure these batteries are charged.

## Alarm Company Responsibilities

In an effort to reduce false alarms, alarm companies must also abide by ordinance regulations. This also helps to ensure that fraudulent contractors do not take advantage of you. The following is only a summary of the responsibilities of the alarm companies as they pertain to the consumer. For more information regarding their requirements consult the alarm ordinance.

**Alarm Company** means any individual, partnership, corporation, or other entity engaged in or causing the selling, leasing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving, installing or monitoring any alarm system.

Alarm Companies that install, monitor, repair, or activate an alarm system in the unincorporated area of Palm Beach County or any other area patrolled by the Sheriff's Office, must be licensed according to Florida State Statute 489 and have the appropriate occupational licenses.

Alarm companies are responsible to instruct the alarm user on the proper use and maintenance of the alarm system as well as provide retraining as necessary.

