



Royal Bahamas Police Force

Working together for a safer Bahamas

Police Emergency
919

False Alarm Safety Tips

False alarms not only negatively impact on your home and personal life, but they also affect your security provider and the community. False alarm fees can cost you hundreds, if not thousands of dollars. It can also create dissatisfaction with your system and with the system provider. Additionally, police time and resources should never be wasted. In fact numerous police and fire patrol hours are spent investigating alarm reports that turn out to be false. Statistics state that over 98% of all alarm responses are false alarms!

You can take several steps to reduce false alarms. The first is to identify their causes. For homeowners, some of the common causes are:

- Using incorrect keypad codes
- Failing to train authorized users
- Failure to secure doors and windows once the alarm is turned on
- Wandering pets
- Re-entering the home just after leaving without disarming (assuming the exit delay is long enough to compensate)
- Objects hanging by or around motion detectors
- Weak system batteries
- Faulty equipment
- Acts of nature (strong winds, electrical storms, etc.)

False alarms due to faulty equipment or acts of nature are rare. The single largest cause of false alarms is human error.

The simplest step you can take to avoid false alarms is to cancel the police response through your alarm monitoring company. Once the causes are identified, some basic steps should help reduce false alarms:

- Properly train all users (e.g., babysitters, relatives, children, visitors, etc.)
- Secure doors and windows before turning on alarm
- Inform the monitoring center of new pass codes and arming codes, and new or removed authorized users
- Service and maintain the system (including batteries) properly

Business False Alarms

Most false alarms in business environments are caused in similar fashion as those in the home. However, in some large retailers and warehousing operations, there may be several individual employees who periodically open the facility. Because they may operate the alarm system less frequently, there may be a tendency to make more errors. Therefore, it becomes even more critical that managers and owners train their employees carefully. Excessive false alarm fees and fines can only deteriorate the bottom line.

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National Crime Prevention Office

302-8430/1

www.royalbahamaspolice.org

Crime Stoppers

328-TIPS (8477)

Family Islands

(242) 300-TIPS (8477)

"To make The Bahamas a safer place to live, work, visit and play."