



G.E. Ratchford
Chief of Police

CRAMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Criminal Investigative Division
Code Enforcement Unit



W.B. Adams
Support Services Captain

ALARM REDUCTION ORDINANCE FACT SHEET

TOWN OF McADENVILLE PASSES ALARM REDUCTION ORDINANCE

The McAdenville Town Council passed an Alarm Reduction Ordinance at their March 11, 2014 meeting. The Ordinance will become effective at midnight on June 1, 2014. The Cramerton Police Department will administrate the Ordinance through its Code Enforcement Unit. Cramerton Police Department is the contracted police service for the Town of McAdenville.

The Ordinance was passed in response to a rise in the number of false burglar alarm calls that are being responded to by the police department. "False alarms place an undue burden on police resources and affects the department's ability to respond to more serious calls," said Cramerton Police Chief Greg Ratchford. "A majority of false alarms are due to homeowner error and response could be avoided by a simple call to the homeowner's alarm monitoring service," Ratchford said.

The Ordinance includes provisions for registration of current and future residential and business alarm systems, graduated fine structures for excessive false alarms, new equipment standards, and suspension of police response to chronic false alarms. Residents and business owners will have until June 1, 2015 to register their alarm at no cost. Alarm systems registered after June 1, 2015 may be subject to a \$25.00 registration fee. Officers responding to false alarm calls after June 1, 2014 will begin issuing warnings to alarm system owners who have not registered their alarm. Failing to register the alarm system after receipt of notice may result in a \$50.00 civil penalty being assessed.

The complete Town of McAdenville Alarm Ordinance is available for download at the Town of McAdenville website at www.townofmcadenville.org or the Cramerton Police Department website at www.cramertonpd.org. A paper copy of the new Ordinance can be obtained at the McAdenville Town Hall. For more information contact the Cramerton Police Code Enforcement Officer at 704.824.7964.

TOWN OF McADENVILLE ALARM REDUCTION ORDINANCE (Annotated)

- All current alarm systems, both commercial and residential, must be registered with the Cramerton Police Department. Newly installed alarm systems must be registered within ten (10) days of installation. Alarm registration must be completed within ten (10) days when a new resident or tenant moves into a location with an active alarm system. Alarm registrations may not be transferred from one tenant/resident to another or to another alarm site. Alarm systems registered prior to June 1, 2015 will not be assessed an alarm registration fee. Alarm systems registered after June 1, 2015 may be subject to a one-time registration fee of \$25.00. Alarm system registration forms are available at the McAdenville Town Hall, the Cramerton Police Department or may be downloaded for completion and submission at the police department's website at www.cramertonpd.org.
- Alarm systems not registered after June 1, 2015 may be assessed a \$50.00 penalty in addition to the \$25.00 registration fee.
- Alarm users must maintain the alarm site and the alarm system in a manner that will minimize or eliminate false alarms. Alarm users must make every reasonable effort to have a key holder respond to the alarm site within twenty (20) minutes when requested by law enforcement. The key holder must be able to deactivate the alarm system, be able to provide access to the alarm site, and be able to provide alternate security to the alarm site if needed. Alarm users must not activate an alarm system for any reason other than an actual occurrence of an event that the alarm system was intended to report.
- Alarm systems with exterior audible signals shall not sound for longer than ten (10) minutes after being activated.



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- Alarm users must have the alarm inspected by a licensed alarm company after two (2) false alarms in one (1) year. After four (4) false alarms in one (1) year the alarm user must have a licensed alarm company modify the alarm system to make the system more false alarm resistant.
- Alarms that utilize automatic voice dialers are prohibited. Alarm system instructions must be maintained at the alarm site.
- Police response to alarm sites may be suspended for three (3) or more false alarms in a 12-hour period or five (5) or more false alarms within twelve (12) months.
- Penalties and fees associated with the Burglar Alarm Ordinance are:

Description	Reference	Fee/Fine
Registration fee	16.03(B)(1)	\$25.00
Fine – 1 st False Alarm	16.07(A)(1)	0
Fine – 2 nd False Alarm	16.07(A)(1)	0
Fine – 3 rd False Alarm	16.07(A)(1)	0
Fine – 4 th False Alarm	16.07(A)(1)	\$100.00
Fine – 5 th False Alarm	16.07(A)(1)	\$250.00
Fine – 6 th and Subsequent False Alarm	16.07(A)(1)	\$500.00
Operation of a Non Registered Alarm System	16.07(B)	\$50.00
False Alarm Caused By On Site Alarm Company Employee	16.07(E)	\$50.00
Monitoring Company Failure to Verify	16.07(F)	\$50.00
False Statement by an Alarm Co. Employee Making an On-Site Inspection	16.07(G)	\$50.00
Reinstatement Fee	16.11(A)(1)	\$25.00

Additional information on the Town of McAdenville Alarm Reduction Ordinance may be obtained by calling the Cramerton Police Department Code Enforcement Officer at 704.824.7964. A printable copy of the full-text Ordinance and Registration Form may be downloaded by visiting the Cramerton Police Department Website at www.cramertonpd.org. Click on the Crime Prevention link and look for the False Alarm Reduction Program link.