

City of Santa Barbara False Alarm Abatement Program

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register my alarm system?

You may print the Registration Form from our website, complete the form, make your check payable to "City of Santa Barbara", and deliver by mail to:

Santa Barbara Police Dept - Alarms
PO Box 539
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

What is the cost of the alarm registration?

The annual registration fee is currently \$40 per year.

Who is required to have an alarm permit/license?

Everyone operating an alarm system inside the City limits is required to register their alarm system. Government buildings are exempt from paying the registration fee but must register their alarm systems.

Where do the registration fees and alarm service fees go?

The fees are used to offset the City's administrative costs of the program.

Are false alarms a problem?

Yes, they are. Across the nation, the growth of alarm system ownership has resulted in a tremendous amount of false alarms. The response to false alarms has created an additional burden on our law enforcement agencies. Nationwide, approximately 99% of all the burglar alarms police respond to are false.

What does the City hope to accomplish by enforcing the false alarm ordinance?

The City wants to substantially reduce the number of false alarms that the police department responds to.

Will I be charged for alarm activations that are not false?

No, you will never be charged for an alarm activation that is not false, this ordinance allows charges for false alarms only.

What are the fees if my alarm is activated accidentally?

False alarm activations within a 365 day period will result as follows:

1st: \$55*

2nd: \$55*

3rd: \$55

4th: \$110

5th +: \$250 each

* False alarm fees for the 1st and 2nd alarm within a 365 day period are **waived for registered accounts**.

If I disagree with an assessed fine, can I appeal?

Yes. If you disagree, the ordinance does have an appeal provision. Please refer to the Appeal Procedure page.

Do I have to register my car alarm?

No, car alarms do not need to be registered.

Where do I send my check?

The mailing address is:

**Santa Barbara Police Department - Alarms
PO Box 539
Santa Barbara, CA 93102**

What is the effective date for the ordinance?

The alarm ordinance went into effect on October 13, 2004.

I received duplicate alarm invoices at my address; what can I do?

If you received a duplicate alarm invoice, please contact us at (805) 897-2333 so we can delete the incorrect invoice(s). If you are directed to a voicemail box, please leave a message with your name, address, phone number and the account/permit numbers that need to be combined or deleted.

I was sent a bill but am no longer at that address or I'm no longer using an alarm. What should I do?

Please contact the Police Technician at (805) 897-2333 or via email: permits@sbpd.com. In the message please leave your name, the name on the account, if different, the address in question, and the account number if you have it. Give a brief explanation as to why the account should be closed. The Police Technician will only contact you if further details are required. Otherwise the account will be closed per your request.

Where can I read or obtain a copy of the ordinance?

The alarm ordinance is posted online at: <http://www.santabarbaraca.gov>. Search for Santa Barbara Municipal Code Chapter 9.100.

Who can I call if I have additional questions or comments?

Call us at (805) 897-2333, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, or you may email any questions, comments, or concerns to: permits@sbpd.com.