CHAPTER 8. RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS ALARMS

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9-8-1. Purpose and scope.

(1) The purpose of this chapter is to require owners to properly use and maintain the operational effectiveness of residential and business security alarm systems in order to improve their reliability and eliminate or reduce false residential and business alarms.

(2) This Chapter governs repeated false alarms designed to summon the Tooele City police department.
(Ord. 2026-10; 05-06-2026)

9-8-2. Definitions.

As used in this Chapter, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings:

Alarm System – A system, or portion of a system or combination system, consisting of components and circuits arranged to monitor and/or signal initiating device that initiates a response.

False Alarm – The activation of a residential or business alarm, other than a panic alarm designed to elicit immediate police response for a robbery in progress, that results in a response by the police department that:

(1) is caused by mechanical failure, lack of maintenance, malfunction, or improper installation;

(2) is caused by the negligence or intentional misuse of the alarm system by the owner, tenant, or occupant of a premises, or an employee or agent thereof; or,

(3) for which emergency officials cannot determine a cause.

Owner – Any person who owns the premises in which an alarm system is installed. In the event such premises are leased to a third party, the term Owner shall mean both the owner of the property and the tenant in possession of the premises, and any responsibilities for the alarm system and fees assessed hereunder shall be joint and several for both the owner and tenant.

Police Department – Tooele City police department.

Premises – Any building or structure, or combination of buildings and structures, in which an alarm system is installed.

Service or Serve – Personal delivery or delivery via regular U.S. mail to both the physical address of the premises and to the address of the record owner of the premises if different than the physical address of the premises. Service is deemed effective upon personal delivery or 3 days after mailing.
(Ord. 2026-10; 05-06-2026)

9-8-3. Alarm system activation and response.

(1) The owner of a premises shall be responsible for all activations of a false alarm system thereon.

(2) A police department response to the activation of an alarm system shall be deemed to result when any officer is dispatched to the premises where the alarm has been activated.
(Ord. 2026-10; 05-06-2026)

9-8-4. Notice and fees for repeated false alarms.

(1) The fourth alarm false alarm in any 365-day period, shall result in the police department serving a Notice of Repeated False Alarm to the owner of the premises where the alarm system has been activated. The notice will indicate the alarm activation and direct the owner to correct the cause of the alarm, and provide warning that subsequent alarms may result in the assessment of fees.

(2) Upon the activation of the fifth false alarm in a 365-day period, the police department will serve a civil citation to the owner of the premises where the alarm system has been activated, punishable as follows in any given 365-day period:

(a) first citation: $100 fine;
(b) second citation: $250 fine; and,
(c) third and subsequent citations: $500 fine.

(Ord. 2026-10; 05-06-2026)

9-8-5. Appeals.

(1) An owner may appeal a Notice of Repeated False Alarms or a civil citation in writing and shall set forth the reasons for the appeal, in accordance with Chapter 1-28.

(2) All appeals shall be filed with the City Recorder within 10 days of service of the Notice being appealed.

(3) All appeals shall be accompanied with the payment of an appeal fee set forth in the Tooele City fee schedule. Appeal fees shall be returned to the owner if the Notice being appealed is not upheld on appeal.
(Ord. 2026-18; 06-17-2026) (Ord. 2026-10; 05-06-2026)

9-8-6. Collection of fees.

Tooele City is authorized to use all lawful means to collect fees assessed under this Chapter, including but not limited to direct billing by the City Finance Department, referral to a third-party collection agency, and referral to the City Attorney's Office for civil action.
(Ord. 2026-10; 05-06-2026)