

City of Prince George Bylaw No. 6358, 1995

Security Alarm System Bylaw

THE PROBLEM: Simply stated, police are responding to **TOO MANY FALSE ALARMS**

THE FACTS: Over the last decade we have seen an ever increasing use of security alarm systems in business establishments and private residences. Police response to alarms as an emergency service benefits us all, however, when response is being made to False Alarms it causes a significant drain on police resources where police could be attending to true emergencies. Further, unnecessary emergency responses pose a threat to the safety of police officers and members of the public by creating unnecessary hazards. Among the contributing factors to False Alarm occurrences are improperly installed systems, poorly located sensors and inadequately trained users. Both the security system dealer and the security system user need to be more accountable for the installation and operation of their equipment.

THE SOLUTION: In an effort to find a fair and practical solution to this problem a False Alarms Advisory Committee was formed which included local alarm company representatives, persons involved in existing business and residential crime prevention programs, and representatives from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the City of Prince George. Research was done into the problems faced and solutions found by similar communities experiencing the same problem with excessive False Alarms. As a result, the City of Prince George enacted Bylaw 6358 to establish fees for services provided in response to a False Alarm of a Security System. This bylaw applies to all devices installed on or in a premise and designed to activate either an audible alarm signal or to alert a monitoring facility.

As defined by the Bylaw, a False Alarm means "***the activation of a security alarm system to which the RCMP is requested to respond and upon their attendance at the alarm location, the RCMP can find no evidence of criminal activity or unauthorized entry.***"

Fees for provision of Policing Services in response to a false alarm of a security alarm system.

Schedule "A" To Bylaw No. 8376, 2011

1. Attendance at a False Alarm of an Alarm System - \$100.00.
2. For attendance at a false alarm of an alarm system, where the owner or occupier has not provided the RCMP with the names, addresses and phone numbers of at least three property representatives, or with the name of a guard service - \$100.00.
3. For attendance at a false alarm of an alarm system, where the owner or occupier or the named property representatives, or the named guard services has not attended at the premises within thirty (30) minutes of being requested to do so by the R.C.M.P. - \$100.00
4. The above fees will be imposed on the owner or occupier of real property to which policing services are provided by or on behalf of the City, including policing services under section 3(2) of the Police Act in response to a false alarm of a security alarm system.
5. The fees imposed shall be:
 - a. imposed on the owner of the real property, unless
 - b. the occupier is known to the RCMP, in which case the fees shall be imposed on the occupier of the real property, and a notice of fees shall be mailed to the owner or occupier, as the case may be.
6. Where the fees are imposed on the occupier, the owner shall be provided with a copy of the notice of the fees.
7. A fee imposed, if unpaid on December 31st of the year in which it was imposed, may be added to and form part of the taxes payable on the real property as taxes in arrears. It is recommended that all security system users be familiar with all details of Bylaw 8376. Copies of the Bylaw are available at City Hall, 5th floor Administration Div., 1100 Patricia Blvd, Prince George, BC, V2L 3V9