

**FALSE ALARM BYLAW 08/2011**

**A BYLAW OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE TOWN OF HIGH PRAIRIE,  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO REGULATE AND CONTROL ALARM SYSTEMS**

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**WHEREAS:** Council of the Town of High Prairie has the authority under Section 7(a) of the Municipal Government Act, being Chapter M-26, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000 and amendments thereto, hereafter referred to as the *Municipal Government Act*, to enact bylaws respecting the health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property;

**WHEREAS:** Council of the Town of High Prairie deems it desirable and necessary in order to protect and preserve the safety and welfare of its citizens that alarm systems be regulated and controlled so as to minimize false alarms;

**NOW THEREFORE: COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGH PRAIRIE, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, DULY ASSEMBLED, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

**1. SHORT TITLE**

This bylaw may be called the "Alarm Bylaw".

**2. INTERPRETATION**

In this bylaw:

- (a) **Alarm Signal** means a telephone request for emergency response by police or fire department services;
- (b) **Alarm Business** means any persons or corporations who:
  - (i) is engaged in the business of selling, installing, leasing, maintaining, repairing, replacing or servicing of alarm systems;
  - (ii) monitors alarm systems and reports to the police when an alarm system has been activated; or
  - (ii) as a part of regular business activities, responds to any building, structure or facility in which as an alarm system has been activated;
- (c) **Alarm System** includes a device or devices designed to activate an alarm signal but excludes a device that is installed in a vehicle;
- (d) **Alarm Site** means a single fixed premise or location served by an alarm system or systems. Each tenancy shall be considered a separate alarm site

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- (e) **Chief of Police** means the Commanding Officer of the High Prairie Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.) or his designate.
- (f) **Council** means the Council of the Town of High Prairie.
- (g) **Excessive False Alarms** means more than three false alarms in any six month period;
- (h) **False Alarm** means an activation of an alarm system which results in a response by the R.C.M.P. or the High Prairie Fire Department, where unauthorized entry to the alarmed premises has not occurred and no police or fire department emergency exists, but does not include:
  - (i) any false alarm which the organization or individual can demonstrate was caused by a storm, lightning, fire, earthquake or act of God; or
  - (ii) any false alarm which the organization or individual can demonstrate was actually caused by the act of some person other than the organization or individual, including the organization or individual's officers, agents, employees, independent contractors or any other person subject to the direct or indirect control of the organization or individual;
- (i) **Fire Department** means the Fire Chief and / or any other member of the High Prairie Volunteer Fire Department.
- (j) **Fire Protection Charge** means the charges and fees payable pursuant to Section 8 of this Bylaw
- (k) **Key holder** means a person who does not live at the premises protected by an alarm but who is capable of providing entry to such premises;
- (l) **Response Fee** means the fee payable by the organization or individual for each false alarm at the organization or individual's premises.
- (m) **Peace Officer** means a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or a Community Peace Officer or Bylaw Officer appointed by the Town of High Prairie authorized under the Peace Officer Act, S.A. 2006, c. P-3.5, as amended or repealed and replaced from time to time.
- (n) **Violation Tag** means a tag or similar document issued by a Peace Officer pursuant to the Act for the purpose of notifying a person that an offence has been committed and are in contravention of the bylaw.



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- (o) **Violation Ticket** means a ticket issued pursuant to Part 2 of the Provincial Offences Procedures Act.

**3. ALARM SYSTEMS**

- 3.1 No person shall install, maintain or use an alarm system, which is capable of generating an audible alarm continuously for a period of greater than fifteen (15) minutes after each activation.
- 3.2 Every person maintaining an alarm shall keep posted a notice of the alarm business monitoring the alarm site with 24hr phone number included.
- 3.3 Such notice shall be posted near the alarm in such a position as to be legible from the ground level adjacent to the premises where the alarm system is located.

**4. KEYHOLDERS**

- 4.1 Every person maintaining an alarm shall keep the Alarm Business informed, by notice in writing, of the current names and telephone numbers of the persons to be contacted in the event that the alarm is activated.
- 4.2 Every alarm business shall maintain a list of key holders.
- 4.3 The key holder:
- (a) Shall be available to receive telephone calls made in respect of the alarms; and
  - (b) shall be capable of affording access to the premises where the alarm is located; and
  - (c) shall attend at the premises where the alarm is located within 20 minutes of being requested to do so by the alarm monitoring service or a member of the R.C.M.P or the Fire Department.

**5. MONITORING OF ALARM SYSTEM**

- 5.1 A person who monitors an alarm system and who informs any member of the R.C.M.P. or the Fire Department that the monitored alarm has been activated, shall cause a person capable of affording access to the premises where the

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alarm is located to attend at such premises within twenty (20) minutes of such notice.

- 5.2 No person shall use, maintain or install, or permit the use, maintenance or installation of any alarm system which transmits a message to any telephone number assigned to the R.C.M.P or the Fire Department.

**6. POLICE RESPONSE FEE**

- 6.1 Where a false alarm is activated, subject to subsection (f) of Section 2, the organization or individual having care and control of the alarm site, shall upon demand pay a response fee to the Town of High Prairie as set out in Schedule "A" of this bylaw.

**7. FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE FEE**

- 7.1 Where a false alarm is activated, subject to subsection (f) of Section 2, the organization or individual having care and control of the alarm site, shall upon demand pay a response fee to the Town of High Prairie as set out in Schedule "B" of this bylaw .

**8. FIRE PROTECTION CHARGES**

- 8.1 Upon the Fire Department providing Fire Protection on property within or outside the Town's boundaries, the Town may in its sole and absolute discretion charge any of the following persons, namely:
- i) the person causing or contributing to the Fire; or
  - ii) the owner or occupant of the property;
- 8.2 The schedule of fees for the Fire Protection Charges shall be as set out in Schedule "C" attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw
- 8.3 Council shall have full discretion to reduce or waive all or part of fire protection charges.
- 8.4 A Fire Protection Charge shall be paid within one hundred and twenty (120) days of being levied.
- 8.5 Collection of unpaid Fire Protection Charges may be undertaken by civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction, and any civil action does not invalidate any lien or other charge which the Town is entitled to put on the property in respect of which the indebtedness is incurred.



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- 8.6 The owner of a parcel to which Fire Protection charges incurred and the Town may add to the tax roll of a parcel of land all unpaid Fire Protection charges.

#### **9. OFFENCES AND PENALTIES**

- 9.1 Any person(s) who contravenes Section 3, Section 4, or Section 5 of this bylaw is guilty of an offence and shall pay a specified penalty as set out in Schedule "C" of this bylaw.

#### **10. VIOLATION TICKETS**

- 10.1 Where a Violation Tag has been issued the person to whom the Violation Tag has been issued may, in lieu of being prosecuted for the offence, pay to the Town Office the penalty specified on the Violation Tag.
- 10.2 In the event that a Violation Tag has been issued and the penalty specified on the Violation Tag has not been paid within the prescribed time, A Peace Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to issue a Violation Ticket pursuant to Part 2 of the Provincial Offences Procedure Act
- 10.3 Where a Peace Officer or Bylaw Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe a person has contravened any provision of this bylaw, he may serve upon such person a violation ticket pursuant to Part 2 of the Provincial Offences Procedure Act.
- 10.4 Regardless of whether a warning has been issued pursuant to this bylaw, any person who contravenes any provision of this bylaw is guilty of an offence and is liable, upon summary conviction to a penalty as set out in Schedule "A", "B" or "C" herein.

#### **11. MISCELLANEOUS**

- 11.1 Should any provision of this bylaw be found void or unenforceable, then it is the express intention of Council of the Town of High Prairie that such void or unenforceable sections be severed from this bylaw and the balance remain in full force and effect.

Bylaw 14/01 – False Alarm Bylaw is hereby repealed.

Bylaw 3/2005 – False Alarm Bylaw is hereby repealed.

This Bylaw shall come into effect upon third reading

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**READ** a first time this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011

**READ** a second time this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT FOR THIRD READING** was given.

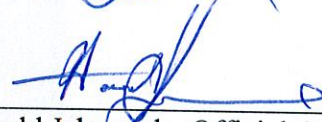
**READ** a third time and finally passed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011



Mayor Rick Dumont



Keli Tamaklo, Interim CAO/Town Manager



Harold Johnsrude, Official Administrator

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**SCHEDULE "A"**

**6. POLICE RESPONSE FEES**

6.1 (a) First false alarm **No fee - verbal warning**

6.1 (b) Second false alarm **No fee - written notice**

6.1 (c) Third and each subsequent false alarm  
Within a period of six months commencing  
From the date of the first false alarm for a:

(i) Residential building **\$150.00**

(ii) Business building **\$300.00**



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**SCHEDULE "B"**

**7. FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE FEES**

7.1 (a) First false alarm **No fee – verbal warning**

7.1 (b) Second and each subsequent false alarm  
Within a period of six months commencing  
From the date of the first false alarm for a:

(i) Residential building **\$150.00**

(ii) Business **\$250.00**





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**SCHEDULE "C"**

**FIRE & RESCUE RESPONSE CHARGES**

**A. Fire Fighting Personnel**

Firefighting services manpower shall be set at \$25.00 per hour for each firefighter

**B. Equipment**

Rates for each piece of Equipment includes costs incurred to support the Apparatus which includes facilities, training, insurance and maximum seating capability of the unit.

Pumping Apparatus: \$400.00 per hour

Tanker Truck: \$400.00 per hour

Wild Land/Rescue \$400.00 per hour

All-Terrain Vehicle \$ 50.00 per hour

Squad vehicle for transport of personnel and equipment: \$75.00 per hour

Equipment rates include firefighter fees.

**C. Supplies**

All supplies used shall be at cost.

**D. Other Disbursements or Expenses:**

Any other disbursements or expenses incurred by the Municipality in the provision of Fire Protection including but not limited to Mutual Aid charges from other if departments, the hiring of independent contractors to provide services, equipment, or air attack will be charged back at cost.



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**SCHEDULE "D"**

**9. OFFENCES AND PENALTIES**

8.1 (a) Residential Building	<b>\$100.00</b>
8.1 (b) Business having a gross floor area greater than 500 square meters	<b>\$300.00</b>

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