

## **City of Missouri City False Alarm Program** *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **How do I register my alarm system?**

Whether new or renewing, you may register and pay on-line on our website at [www.missouricitytx.gov](http://www.missouricitytx.gov). You may also review alarm history and pay any outstanding false alarm fees on-line.

If you do not have access to our website, you may also mail your registration form with a check or money order. An alarm registration application can be obtained by calling 281-403-8643. A permit will not be created or renewed without a completed form and payment. Remit to:

City of Missouri City  
1522 Texas Parkway  
Missouri City, TX 77489

### **What is the cost of the alarm registration?**

The cost of an alarm registration is as follows:

Residential Property: \$50

Non-Residential Property: \$50

### **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 system.

### **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% or more of all the burglar alarms police respond on 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 if my alarm is activated accidentally?**

False alarm activations within a 12-month period will result as follows:

**False Alarms:**

1-3 \$0

4-5 \$50

6-7 \$75

8+ \$100

Government buildings are exempt.

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

Yes. If you disagree, the City does have an appeal process. To appeal a false alarm fee, please read the following: The Alarm User may appeal an assessment of a false alarm fee to the Finance Department-Attn: Alarm Billing by setting forth in writing the reasons for the appeal within ten (10) days of the date of the notice sent by the Department. The appeal will be reviewed by the Finance Department and then submitted to the Chief of Police for final determination. The alarm user may submit relevant evidence regarding the alleged grounds for suspension or revocation or the imposition of false alarm fees with their written appeal. The Finance Department shall notify the alarm user of their decision no later than two (2) weeks after the appeal has been received. The decision shall be final.

**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:

City of Missouri City  
Attn: Alarm Permitting  
1522 Texas Parkway  
Missouri City, TX 77489

**What will happen if I do not pay the alarm fines?**

Failure to pay the alarm fines within 30 days may result in a fine through our Municipal Court System.

**Can my alarm registration be revoked?**

Yes, it can be revoked. Some of the reasons are failure to make a timely payment of assessed fees or fines, having more than eight false alarms within a 12-month period, or making a false statement of a material fact in the application for registration.

**I've become suspended, how do I reinstate my permit?**

If your account has become suspended you will be required to pay all outstanding fees and fines.

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

The alarm ordinance is posted online at: <https://www.missouricitytx.gov> or call us at 281-403-8643.

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

Call us at 281-403-8643 through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Standard Time.