

**HELP
REDUCE
FALSE ALARMS**

Police False Alarms Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is a Police False Alarm?

A. A Police False Alarm (“false alarm”) means the activation of an alarm system, via an alarm signal, that results in the dispatch of the RCMP where unauthorized entry, attempted unauthorized entry, or a police emergency does not exist. False alarms can happen at both commercial and residential premises.

Q. Why is Town of Beaumont concerned about false alarms?

A. In 2013, there were 359 false alarms in Beaumont. All alarms received by Beaumont RCMP Detachment require an officer to respond; however, research indicates that 95 to 98 per cent of alarms are concluded to be false alarms. Even in cases where police might be called and soon after canceled by the property representative, valuable police resources are diverted to take the initial complaint, initiate a police response, and complete the required documentation to conclude the file. False alarms divert valuable policing resources that can otherwise remain available for valid calls for police help.

Q. What is Town of Beaumont doing to reduce false alarms?

A. The Town of Beaumont has passed the Police False Alarm Bylaw with the goal of reducing false alarms. You can read the Bylaw on the Town’s website at www.beaumont.ab.ca/falsealarms.

Q. How does the Police False Alarm Bylaw affect me?

A. In addition to supporting your community and the Beaumont RCMP Detachment—which is entrusted with your safety—the Police False Alarm Bylaw includes financial consequences:

- The first false alarm results in a warning letter being sent to the property owner to explain the issue and to direct them to the Police False Alarm Bylaw.
- A second false alarm in the next 12 months results in a financial fine of \$150.00.
- Third and subsequent false alarms in the next 12 months result in a financial fine of \$250.00 for each additional false alarm incident.

Q. What can I do to avoid police false alarms?

A. You can help to avoid false alarms by observing these tips:

- Consider whether your alarm company should have instructions to contact you or another property representative, via cell phone, before having permission to contact the RCMP. In many cases false alarms occur despite the property representative having the information that might suggest, for example, a relative is staying at the property who forgot the code.
- Discuss with your alarm company what circumstances will determine whether the RCMP are dispatched (i.e., two separate alarm triggers, only multi-zone triggers, etc.). Your alarm company can advise you on options.
- Have your alarm system serviced regularly especially those components that are susceptible to wear and failure (back-up batteries, point-of-entry sensors, etc.).
- Ensure your contact information is up to date with your alarm company.
- Ensure all people who have access to your home or business know how to operate the system and are aware of alarm monitoring company contact protocols.
- Check for drafts that may cause curtains, plants or decorations to set off motion detectors.
- When you leave, ensure that all doors and windows are closed tightly and securely. Loose fitting doors or windows may set off contact sensors.
- Keep your owner’s manual in an accessible place for quick reference.
- Motion detectors are particularly susceptible to false alarms. Ensure that pets are not allowed to roam in areas covered by motion detectors. Also, do not place in areas covered by motion detectors objects that are easily moved by airflow, such as balloons.
- Ensure motion detectors are free of insects.

Police false alarms are a concern that requires community action to reduce the number of false alarms in order to improve the efficient use of policing resources.

To read about how you can help reduce police false alarms and to read the Police False Alarm Bylaw, go to www.beaumont.ab.ca/falsealarms

