



# SALINAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Burglary and Robbery Alarms

Salinas Ordinance 1818 NCS



Installation of alarm systems to combat crime is becoming increasingly popular. The Salinas Police Department continues to encourage their use since a properly functioning alarm often results in the apprehension of criminals or at least the safeguarding of persons and property.

Unfortunately, there is also a negative aspect to alarm utilization; the problem of “false alarms.” These are alarms that are activated because of user error or mechanical defect. A survey conducted by the Salinas Police Department revealed that nearly all alarm response calls were “false alarms.” Each alarm requires at least two police officers to respond and consumes about one hour of time. Consequently, “false alarms” waste a significant amount of available manpower. Equally important, officers must respond in an emergency manner, which is not without danger to themselves and other innocent citizens.

Many cities and counties who also experience this problem have enacted alarm ordinances to curb “false alarms.” The results have been very encouraging - usually a 50 - 75% reduction. Accordingly, the City of Salinas has adopted such an ordinance. Salinas’ alarm ordinance requires all alarm users, alarm agents and alarm businesses to register with the Salinas Police Department. Applications are available at the Police Department, 222 Lincoln Avenue, or from any licensed Salinas alarm business, also available online at [www.salinaspd.com](http://www.salinaspd.com).

Perhaps the most effective aspect of the ordinance is the assessment of “service fees.” There is an initial permit fee of \$35.00. Each false alarm will be assessed a \$111.00 fee.

Starting July 1, 2009, there will be a yearly renewal fee of \$20.00 for each alarm permit. Your yearly renewal date is the month your alarm application was submitted. For example, if your alarm application was processed in the month of September, your yearly renewal fee will be due in the month of September. An invoice will be sent to you in advance of your renewal date.

Alarms activated by unusual weather conditions, earthquakes, power outages and the like and not the results of negligence on the part of the user will not be considered as false alarms.

The adoption of the alarm ordinance is for the sole purpose of controlling negligent alarm usage not to discourage the installation of proper alarm systems. Significant manpower savings will result if the ordinance is adhered to. These savings will result in a more productive use of time.



## False Alarm Prevention Checklist



- My family and I have been trained in the proper operation of the system.
- I have been given a summary operating sheet and the security system operating manual, which I have placed in an emergency procedure file for easy access by family members or other responsible individuals.
- I know how to cancel an accidental alarm activation and know the cancellation code. And I have trained authorized users on this procedure.
- I know how to turn off motion detectors while leaving other sensors on. I understand that moving objects on the premises may cause a false alarm.
- I know how to test the system and how to contact my Customer Monitoring Center when needed.
- I understand the length of the delay time on designated entry/exit doors and I believe this will provide sufficient time to get in and out of the premises.
- I have the alarm company's phone number to request repair service or to ask questions about my alarm system.
- I know where the main control panel, battery and transmitter are located.
- I understand that indoor pets can cause false alarms and I will contact my alarm company to adjust the system as necessary.
- I understand the importance of keeping my emergency contact information and phone numbers current by calling your alarm company.
- I understand the importance of any other changes to my telephone service such as call waiting or fax line.
- I am aware of the possibility that local alarm ordinances may govern the operation of the system and I will comply with applicable requirements (permits, false alarm fees, yearly renewal fees.).
- I will contact my alarm company before I do any remodeling (such as extensive painting or moving walls, doors or windows).
- I understand the certain building defects (such as loose-fitting doors or windows, rodents, inadequate power and roof leaks) can cause false alarms. I will correct these defects as I become aware of them.

### These are the main causes of false alarms:

- Family members or friends who have not been properly trained in its use.
- Poor maintenance.
- Users who forgot the alarm code.
- Cleaning staff, service people, babysitters, etc.
- Poor installation.
- Carelessness.
- Not properly closing doors when leaving.
- Low batteries on alarm panels.
- Children playing with panic or alarm panels.
- Leaving doors unlocked while alarm system is on.



# APPLICATION FOR ALARM DEVICE

Salinas Police Dept.  
222 Lincoln Avenue  
Salinas, CA 93901  
(831) 758-7363

\*Print all information required on this application.

ALARM TYPE \_\_\_\_\_ where sounded \_\_\_\_\_  
*(burglar, robbery, etc.) (premises, County Communications, answering services, etc.)*

## BUSINESS INFORMATION

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## HOMEOWNERS/RESIDENTS INFORMATION (Circle One)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## ALARM COMPANY OR AGENT

Alarm Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Agent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION (List names of people who are able to respond within 15 minutes)

(ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NEEDED)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner/Manager/Resident: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

We, the undersigned, hereby request permission to install/operate an alarm device within the City of Salinas for the purpose of summoning the assistance of appropriate employees of the City of Salinas and agree to hold the City harmless for any failure to respond to any activation, or apparent activation, of the alarm device, for any reason whatsoever. In addition, we acknowledge that the City of Salinas reserves the right to disconnect, order disconnection, or terminate normal response to the alarm device would constitute a detriment to the public health, safety and welfare, and that we are responsible for any charges relating to disconnection or termination of the alarm device by the City.

This permit shall be subject to the fees and conditions specified in Section 1818 NCS of the Salinas City Code. Subscriber agrees to abide by such conditions and acknowledges reading and having been explained, said Section. The City reserves the right to amend said section without notice to subscribers.

Return completed application to: Salinas Police Department, 222 Lincoln Ave, Salinas, CA 93901 -- Attn: Alarm Control

For further information and additional applications go to: [www.salinaspd.com](http://www.salinaspd.com) - Online Reports