



FALSE ALARMS

False Alarm Bylaw No. 1542



Why is the City implementing this bylaw?

False alarms have a significant impact on the operations of both Parksville Fire Rescue and the Oceanside Detachment RCMP. Effective August 21, 2018, the City will invoice property owners for false alarms to encourage the reduction of false alarms which cause an unnecessary expense and also have the potential to take the RCMP and firefighters away from true emergencies.

What is a false alarm?

A false alarm is the activation of an alarm system resulting in the attendance of the RCMP or Parksville Fire Rescue at the property when there is no apparent or actual evidence to merit such a call. (See Bylaw 1542 for full description). This also includes situations where the alarm system has malfunctioned, been activated in error, or has been activated during testing.

What are the fees/penalties to be charged for attendance at false alarms?

In any twelve month period, if the fire department or RCMP respond to more than two false alarms originating from the same property, the owner or occupier of the property, or both, in which the alarm system is installed will pay a fee to the City of \$250 for the third and any subsequent false alarm.

In any 24 month period, if the fire department or RCMP responds to more than four false alarms from the same property, the owner or occupier of the property in which the alarm system is installed will pay a fee to the City of \$500 for the fifth and any subsequent false alarm.

In the event of an emergency call **911**

Non Emergency

RCMP	250 248-6111
Parksville Fire Rescue	250 248-3242



The charge for each false alarm that Parksville Fire Rescue or RCMP attends is as follows:

Bylaw Section	Description	Penalty	Early Payment, Penalty Discount	Late Payment Penalty
3(1)	Improper use, maintenance of operation of alarm system	\$150	\$112.50	\$187.50
3(2)	Fail to provide sufficient contact information for contact persons	\$150	\$112.50	\$187.50
3(3)	Fail to provide sufficient notification before alarm test or repair	\$150	\$112.50	\$187.50
3(4)	Inadequate false alarm prevention	\$150	\$112.50	\$187.50
3(5)	Obstructing a City employee or officer	\$500	\$375.00	\$500.00
4	Fail to confirm validity of alarm prior to notification of police or fire department	\$150	\$112.50	\$187.50

Fees imposed under this bylaw shall be due and payable within 30 days of invoice. If the fees are not paid by December 31 of that year, the amount is added onto the property owner's taxes at the end of the calendar year in which the infraction was issued. Once this charge is added to the taxes, it becomes "taxes in arrears" and is subject to interest charges.

What you can do to prevent false alarms:

- Know your codes and keep a list of who has your alarm codes.
- Use pet friendly sensors, designed to ignore the presence of pets up to a certain weight.
- Secure all windows and doors before activating your home security systems.
- Watch for stray objects near motion detectors that could trigger a false alarm.
- Drafts can move plants or curtains causing a false alarm.
- If your alarm system uses batteries, ensure you replace them regularly.
- Report damaged or faulty equipment to your security company.
- Have your security company call you or a designated contact first in case of an alarm.



Information is for convenience only. Contact staff to discuss current and applicable bylaws.

Administration Department

100 Jensen Avenue East (PO Box 1390), Parksville, BC V9P 2H3

General Inquiries: 250 954-4650

Email: bylaw@parksville.ca