

The City of Parksville is located on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Nations, home to the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation and the Qualicum First Nation.

Administration Department

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parksville.ca

The City's bylaw compliance department provides the citizens of Parksville with a variety of services related to regulatory issues. Bylaw officers work primarily on a complaint-driven basis, in accordance with Council Policy No. 3.33. The bylaw compliance department attempts, where possible, to gain compliance with the municipal bylaws before resorting to enforcement actions such as issuing tickets or seeking stronger legal solutions.

FALSE ALARMS

[False Alarm
Bylaw No. 1542](#)

October 2024



Why is the City implementing this bylaw?

False alarms have a significant impact on the operations of both Parkville 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 Parkville 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 alarms.

In the event of an emergency call 911

Non-Emergency

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

The charge for each false alarm Parkville 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



What you can do to prevent false alarms:

- Know your codes and keep a list of who has them.
- Use pet friendly sensors, designed to ignore the presence of pets up to a certain weight.
- Secure all windows and doors before activating alarm.
- 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, 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.