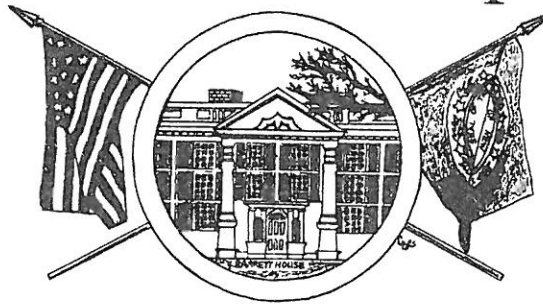


Town of New Ipswich



Town of New Ipswich Alarm Ordinance

SECTION 1. Purpose

This ordinance is intended to regulate the activities and responsibilities of those persons who purchase, rent or use, and those persons who own or conduct the business of selling, renting, maintaining or monitoring alarm systems, devices or services, and the installation of fire alarm systems per NFP A 72. It is further intended to encourage the improvement in reliability of these systems, devices and services and to ensure that fire and police personnel will not be unduly diverted from responding to actual emergency activity as a result of responding to false or nuisance alarms. This ordinance specifically encompasses Burglar Alarms, Robbery Alarms, Panic Alarms, Holdup Alarms, and Fire Alarms both audible and inaudible (silent). The provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to alarm systems that are owned or maintained by the Town of New Ipswich and installed on premises in which the town has a property interest.

SECTION 2. Alarm System Definitions

Alarm System:

A functionally related group of devices that when either automatically or manually activated will sound audio and visual warning devices on or off the protected premises.

Digital Encoder Alarms:

Those alarm systems that automatically seize a telephone line and dial a specified number signaling the fire alarm system by means of sequential toning.

Direct Dialer Tape Alarms:

Those alarm systems that automatically seize a telephone line connected to Southwestern Mutual Aid Dispatch, Hillsborough County Sheriffs Dispatch or any other Dispatch Agency and reproduce a prerecorded voice message indicating the existence of the emergency situation the alarm is designed to detect.

Enforcement Official:

Means the Fire Chief, Police Chief, or their designated representative.

False Burglar Alarm:

A False Alarm is any alarm caused by human error or equipment problems requiring police response with no evidence of an actual crime having been committed. False alarms shall not include alarms caused by earthquakes, violent winds, or external causes beyond the control of the owner or lessee of the alarm system.

False Fire Alarm:

Means the activation of any Fire Alarm System which results in a response by the New Ipswich Fire Department and which is caused by the negligence or intentional misuse of the Fire Alarm System by the owner, its employees, lessee, agents or any other activation of a Fire Alarm not caused by heat, smoke or fire, exclusive of a Nuisance Fire Alarm. False alarm shall not include alarms caused by earthquakes, violent winds, or external causes beyond the control of the owner or lessee of the alarm system.

Nuisance Alarms:

Means the activation of any Alarm System, which results in a response by the fire and/or police department, caused by mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, lack of proper maintenance or any other response for which the fire and/or police department personnel are unable to determine the apparent cause of the alarm activation. Nuisance alarm shall not include alarms caused by earthquakes, violent winds, or external causes beyond the control of the owner or lessee of the alarm system

Registration:

Means the notification by an owner to the Enforcement Official that an Alarm System has been installed and is in use. All Fire Alarm systems must have an Acceptance Test after installation. The installer, in the presence of the New Ipswich Fire Department, must perform this test.

SECTION 3. False or Nuisance Alarm Charge

Any person who maintains or has an alarm connected to 'the municipal alarm system to an alarm agent, alarm business, or person responding to alarms which cause any signal, message, or alarm to be transmitted to the Southwestern Mutual Aid Dispatch or Hillsborough County Sheriff Dispatch either by direct telephone or other communication and which is proven to be a false or nuisance alarm shall pay a False or Nuisance Alarm Charge to the Town of New Ipswich. This charge shall be based on the number of false or nuisance alarms received from the same alarm system during a billing period. The billing period shall be January first through December thirty-first. Upon the recommendation of law enforcement officials, the board of Selectmen may choose to exchange civil forfeiture for community service.

(a) There is no charge for the first three (3) false or nuisance alarms.

(b) The charge for the fourth, fifth and sixth false or nuisance alarms is one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per alarm.

(c) The charge for the seventh and subsequent false or nuisance alarms is three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per alarm.

SECTION 4. Appeals Board

Any person aggrieved by a decision to impose a fee under the provisions of this Ordinance may appeal that decision to an Appeals Board consisting of three (3) members who shall be appointed and confirmed by the Board of Selectmen.

SECTION 5. Alarm System Owner's Responsibility

The property owner or the owner of the alarm system shall ensure that a representative known as the Key Holder shall be available to arrive at the property within thirty (30) minutes after being notified by the Communications Operator at Southwestern Mutual Aid Dispatch - Hillsborough County Sheriffs Dispatch, or other alarm monitoring dispatch center of the sounding of an alarm at the property, or upon notification that a hazard to life or property exists.

If no representative is reached or no one responds to the property for a fire alarm within thirty (30) minutes then the New Ipswich Fire Department will reset the fire alarm system.

The fee for the service of resetting the fire alarm shall be two hundred dollars (\$200.00). The New Ipswich Police Department will not reset any alarm system within a building.

Property owners with fire and burglar alarm systems shall register them with the New Ipswich Fire and Police Departments. Registration shall include property owner information and key holder information. There is no fee for this registration.

The property owner, or the owner of the alarm system shall provide the Southwestern Mutual Aid Dispatch and Hillsborough County Sheriffs Dispatch with a telephone number, list of individuals (3 minimum) who are able to respond to the location of the alarm activation. The list shall also be posted on the inside cover of the master alarm panel and updated annually.

No fire alarm system is to be reset prior to the arrival of the New Ipswich Fire Department.

Notice:

Public Utilities Chapter 370-A

Use of Customer-Owned Equipment Section 370-A: 2; Prohibited Use; Notification Required.

No person shall have a self-dialing telephone alarm system connected to his telephone which automatically calls a government agency unless that agency receives notification from the person prior to connection of such alarm system in compliance with regulation and guidelines promulgated by the department of safety pursuant to RSA 541- A. The governmental agency to be notified may provide a form suitable for information and action required of said agency upon receipt of call Source. 1979, 205:1. eff. Aug. 10, 1979.

Public Utilities Chapter 370-A

Use of Customer-Owned Equipment Section 370-A: 3, Violation.

Any person who has a self-dialing telephone alarm system connected to his telephone and who has not obtained written permission pursuant to RSA 370-A:2 shall be guilty of a violation. Source. 1979. 205:1, eff. Aug. 10, 1979.

SECTION 6. Fire Watch:

If the New Ipswich Fire Department is unable to fully reset the fire alarm system, or a representative of the property owner or owner of the fire alarm system does not arrive, then a fire watch will be placed at the scene and will remain at the property until such time as the property owner/occupant or a representative thereof has arrived. The fee for this service will be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per hour (four hour minimum) and one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per hour for each subsequent hour beyond four hours. (The reset fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) in the Alarm System Owner's Responsibility section above is included in this charge.)

SECTION 7. Alarm System Registration:

A one time Registration shall be required for all Alarm Systems in accordance with Adopted Codes. This registration does not apply to residential Fire Alarm Systems unless they are connected to a monitoring business. The owner shall be required to re-register whenever there is a change in the Alarm Business responsible for maintaining, servicing and/or monitoring the Fire Alarm System. Registrations shall not be transferable from one premise to another or from one owner to another. Every Alarm Business shall notify the Enforcement Official of the existence of an Alarm System prior to the system being put into operation. It shall be the responsibility of the installing Alarm Business to provide the owner with notice of the existence of this ordinance, a Registration Form and a copy of the Alarm System operation instructions in accordance with Adopted Codes, and the manufacturer's instructions.

The Registration Form shall include the following information.

- The name(s), address of the premises, mailing address (if different from the address of the premises), business and home telephone number of the owner, lessee, operator) manager or person in possession of the premises wherein the Alarm System is installed;
- The name, address and telephone number of a minimum of three (3) persons who can be notified by the Enforcement Official in the event of the activation of the Alarm System, who shall be capable of responding to the premises within thirty (30) minutes, and who are authorized to enter the premises to ascertain the status thereof.
- The name, address and telephone number of the Alarm Business which has contracted to service the Alarm System and proof of proper state licensing/registration with the Enforcement Official, if required. Proof of proper state licensing may be a valid state licensing number.
- The date the Registration is signed or the alarm System is placed in operation for any reason; and
- Any other documentation that is required by Adopted Codes.

When, any of the information required in Section 3 has changed, the owner shall report it to the Enforcement Official within fifteen (15) days of the owner becoming aware of such change. The owner shall complete and deliver the Alarm System Registration in the required format to the Enforcement Official before the Alarm system is activated or placed into service. The Alarm Business, when authorized by the owner, may assist the owner in accomplishing this submission of the Alarm registration to the Enforcement Official. All Fire Alarm Systems require an Acceptance Test approved by the New Ipswich Fire Department prior to being put into service.

SECTION 8. Acceptance Test

All newly installed or re-certified commercial Fire Alarm Systems shall be approved by the New Ipswich Fire Department. This approval will consist of verifying that the system is designed for the environment and use of the premises. An Acceptance Test will be conducted by the alarm installer and must be supervised by the Enforcement Official. This test will be a test of all devices of the system including the reporting times from the monitoring company.

SECTION 9. Inspection, Testing and Maintenance

- The owner shall ensure that all Alarm Systems are inspected and tested at least once per year in accordance with Adopted Codes.
- The owner shall ensure that all Alarm Systems are periodically maintained per manufacturer specifications and Adopted Codes.
- The owner shall keep records of inspections, Testing and Maintenance and provide to the Enforcement Official upon request.

SECTION 10. Fire and Police Department Response

Fire Department Response:

The New Ipswich Fire Department will respond to all activated fire alarms within the Town of New Ipswich. On arrival, the officer in charge will investigate the cause of the alarm and notify Southwestern. Mutual Aid Dispatch of the cause. Notification will be made to the key holder for their response.

Police Department Response:

The New Ipswich Police Department will respond to all activated alarms within the Town of New Ipswich. In the event of a burglar alarm, the responding police officer will determine the cause of the activation on arrival. If the activation is determined to be a false alarm, the officer will notify Hillsborough County Sheriff's Dispatch. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Dispatch will then notify the property owner or key holder. The officer will notify Dispatch if the building is secure or not. If the building is secure. The officer will not wait for the property representative to respond unless requested to do so by the representative.

If the representative fails to arrive at the property within thirty minutes, the officer will resume his/her patrol even if requested to remain on scene by representative.

SECTION 11. Alarm Requirements

Fire Alarm Systems:

All Fire Alarm Systems required by the State Fire Code will be installed in accordance with NFP A 72.

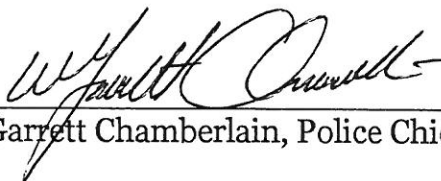
Emergency Key Box:

The New Ipswich Fire Department requires all commercial and multi-family (3 or more units) buildings to be equipped with an emergency key box system that holds a master key to all areas within the building. Contact the New Ipswich Fire Department for information regarding this requirement.

Reviewed this 20th day of July, 2004.



Richard Hewitt, Fire Chief



W. Garrett Chamberlain, Police Chief

Adopted by the Selectmen this 20 day of July, 2004.



Lance dePlante, Chairman

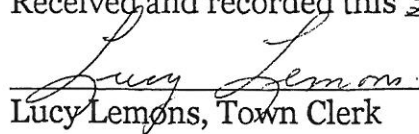


Jay Hopkins



George Lawrence

Received and recorded this 21st day of July, 2004.



Lucy Lemons, Town Clerk