

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY ALARM ORDINANCE

- **4-6203 - ALARM USER'S PERMIT.**

(a)

No person shall install, cause to be installed, use, maintain or possess an alarm system on the premises owned or in the possession or control of such person within the county without first having obtained an alarm user's permit from the Sheriff of San Joaquin County, in accordance with this section.

(b)

The application for an alarm user's permit shall be submitted on a form prescribed by the Sheriff and shall include the address of the premises wherein the system is to be located and the name, address and telephone number of the applicant and the person(s) who will respond to an alarm and provide access during any hour of the day or night, and any such additional information that the Sheriff shall deem necessary for the evaluation and proper processing of the permit application. There shall be no fee for the permit. Permits are nontransferable.

(c)

Any permittee who operates or maintains more than one (1) alarm system upon any particular property may, at the permittee's option apply for a single permit for that particular property or for separate permits for each alarm system operated or maintained; provided, however, that if such permittee chooses to secure separate permits for each alarm system, a separate application shall be submitted for each such system.

(d)

Nothing in this division shall be construed to require any Sheriff's Department response to alarm devices. The issuance of the alarm user's permit does not entitle the holder to any special level of Sheriff's Department service to an alarm device. All Sheriff's Department responses to alarm devices will be made in accordance to the alarm response policy established by the Sheriff.

(e)

Whenever any change occurs relating to the written information required by this division, the permittee shall give notice of such changes to the Sheriff's Department within five (5) days.
(Ord. 3711)

- **4-6204 - FEE EXEMPTIONS.**

The United States Government, the state of California, counties, municipal corporations and departments thereof are exempt from fees required in this chapter.
(Ord. 3711)

- **4-6205 - EXPIRATION OF PERMITS.**

Permits for residences shall automatically expire upon change of ownership of the real property where the alarm is located. Permits for business alarm systems shall automatically expire upon change of ownership of the business. Permits are nontransferable.
(Ord. 3711)

- **4-6206 - NOTICE OF NAME OF SERVICEMAN OR OCCUPANT.**

Every person maintaining an alarm system shall either post or file with the Sheriff's Department a notice containing the names and telephone numbers of persons to be notified in case of emergency or alarm activation or to render service to the system during any hour of the day or night. The person's name shall include the occupant of the premises or alarm business, or the agents responsible for the maintenance of the system. If posted, such notice shall be placed near the front door of the structure containing the alarm system or at the front gate if the structure is fenced; the notice shall be posted in such a position as to be clearly visible and legible from the ground level adjacent to the structure or fence. It shall be the duty of the alarm user to maintain such notice current, whether posted or filed, with the Sheriff's Department.
(Ord. 3711)

- **4-6207 - AUDIBLE ALARMS.**

For every audible alarm, the alarm user thereof must post or file with the Sheriff's Department the name and telephone numbers of persons to be notified in case of emergency or alarm activation or to render service to the system during any hour of the day or night. An audible alarm shall terminate its operation or audible alarm and automatically reset within thirty (30) minutes of being activated.

(Ord. 3711)

- **4-6208 - FALSE ALARMS.**

(a)
False alarms as defined in this chapter will be subject to review according to a false alarm policy established by the Sheriff. In accordance with Section 4-6303, a service fee may be charged by the Sheriff's Department for each false alarm. It shall be unlawful to activate an alarm designed to communicate an emergency situation for non-emergency purposes. Emergency, for the purpose of this chapter, shall mean the commission of a felony crime.

(b)
Failure to pay the required service fee will be a violation of this chapter, and in addition, may result in civil collection.

(Ord. 3711; Ord. 4212 (part), 2004)

- **4-6209 - STANDBY POWER BACK-UP SOURCE.**

(a)
No alarm system shall be installed or connected on or after the date the ordinance codified in this division becomes effective which does not have a standby backup power supply which will automatically assume the operation of the alarm system should any interruption occur in power to the system. The transfer of power from the primary source to the backup source and reverse must occur in a manner which does not activate the alarm. The backup power supply shall be capable of powering the alarm system on a continuous basis for a minimum of at least four (4) hours.

(b)
On or after one (1) year from the effective date of the ordinance codified in this division, no owner of an alarm system within the County of San Joaquin shall have in operation any alarm system unless such alarm system is equipped with a standby power backup source as required by this chapter.

(Ord. 3711)

- **4-6210 - RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALARM SERVICE, AUDIBLE OR SILENT.**

(a)
In a case of either an audible or silent alarm, the person named in the posted notice or a person whose name is on file with the Sheriff's Department as a designated responding party as required under this section shall, upon notification, proceed immediately to the location of the activated alarm and provide access to the premises to allow the Sheriff's Department or properly secure such premises.

(b)
All alarm service companies which contract to provide alarm response services shall maintain service personnel on duty twenty-four (24) hours a day to provide for such responses.

(Ord. 3711; Ord. 4212 (part), 2004)

(Ord. No. 4396, 6-24-2010)

- **4-6211 - MONITORING ALARM SERVICES.**

Every alarm business which monitors an alarm system located within San Joaquin County shall maintain on file a current listing of all such alarm systems, including the name, address and telephone number of the individual or individuals from whom entry to the premises can be obtained. Said information shall be available to the Sheriff's Department upon request of any authorized representative thereof.

(Ord. 3711)

- **4-6212 - ALARM AGENTS—REGISTRATION IN POSSESSION.**

Every person engaged in installing, repairing, servicing, altering, replacing, moving or removing an alarm system as defined in Section 4-6100 on any premises within the county other than those owned or occupied by said person, shall carry on his person at all times, while so engaged, a valid state of California Alarm Agent's Registration Card, and shall display such identification to any Sheriff's Deputy or authorized county representative upon request.

(Ord. 3711)

- **4-6213 - AUTOMATIC CALLING DEVICES.**

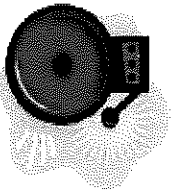
No person shall use or operate, attempt to use or operate, or cause to be used or operated any device or combination of devices that is arranged, adjusted or programmed so that it will, upon activation, either mechanically, electronically, or by other automatic means, initiate, call and deliver a recorded message to any telephone number assigned to the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department Communications (Dispatch) Center without the prior written consent of the Sheriff, nor shall any person so arrange, adjust or program such device without such permission.

(Ord. 3711)

- **4-6214 - AUDIBLE ALARMS—NOT TO BE SIRENS.**

It shall be unlawful to install an intrusion detection device or alarm system that upon actuation emits the sound of a siren. Any alarm system which emits the sound of a siren, and was installed and in operation prior to the date the ordinance codified in this division becomes effective, shall have that part of the system which emits the sound of a siren disconnected within one (1) year from the date the ordinance codified in this division becomes effective.

(Ord. 3711)



**YOU CAN HELP REDUCE
FALSE ALARMS BY:**

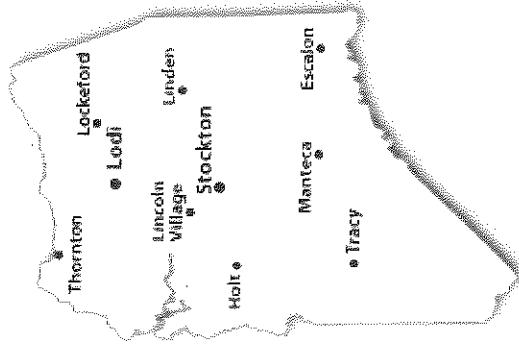
1. Testing your backup batteries on a regular basis and replace them before they get too low.
2. Keeping your alarm equipment, including the window foil, in good repair.
3. Contacting the alarm company as soon as possible if you suspect you may have a mechanical problem with your system.

**BEFORE ACTIVATING AN ALARM
WITH A MOTION DETECTOR**

MAKE SURE:

1. All doors and windows are locked.
2. All pets are outside or your motion detector is specifically designed to allow pets.
3. The heater and air conditioner are turned off.
4. Balloons are not in the room with a motion detector.

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



**98% OF ALL ALARM
CALLS ARE**

FALSE ALARMS

**TRAIN ANYONE WITH
ACCESS TO YOUR
HOME OR BUSINESS
TO CORRECTLY
OPERATE THE
ALARM SYSTEM**

San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office

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French Camp, CA 95231
Phone (209) 488-4578
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COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN ALARM ORDINANCE

Alarm System – Any device, whether known as a burglar alarm, robbery alarm, intrusion alarm, direct dial telephone device, audible or silent alarm, or by any other name which is used for the detection of an unauthorized entry into a building, structure, or facility or to signal the commission of an unlawful act or emergency to which the Sheriff's Department is expected to respond.

False Alarm – The activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation or maintenance, or the negligence of the owner or lessee or of his or her employees or agents, which necessitates response by the Sheriff's Department when an emergency condition does not exist; provided, however, alarms caused by acts of nature such as earthquakes, floods, tornados, or other violent, uncontrollable acts of nature shall not be considered false alarms.

Audible Alarm – A device designated to notify persons in the immediate vicinity of the protected premises by emission of an audible sound of an unauthorized entry on the premises or the commission of an unlawful act.

Alarm User's Permit –

Section 4-6203: No person shall install, use, maintain or possess an alarm system on premises owned or controlled by them without first having obtained an Alarm User's Permit. There is no charge for the permit.

Alarm Notice –

Section 4-6206: For every alarm system, the alarm user must post or file with the Sheriff's Department the name and telephone number of persons to be notified in case of emergency or alarm activation or to render service to the system during any hour of the day or night.

Alarm User Responsibilities –

Section 4-6210: The alarm user or his or her designated representative shall, upon notification, proceed immediately to the location of the activated alarm and provide access to the premises to allow the Sheriff's Department to properly secure such premises.

Alarm Shutoff –

Section 4-6207: An audible alarm shall terminate its operation or audible alarm and automatically reset within thirty (30) minutes of being activated.

Standby Power –

Section 4-6209: No alarm system shall be installed or connected which does not have a back-up power supply capable of powering the alarm system on a continuous basis for a minimum of at least four (4) hours.

Siren Prohibited –

Section 4-6214: It shall be unlawful to install an intrusion detection device or alarm system that upon actuation emits the sound of a siren.

Automatic Calling Devices –

Section 4-6213: No person shall use or operate, or cause to be used or operated, any device or combination of devices that upon activation, calls and delivers a recorded message to any telephone number assigned to the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department Communications (Dispatch) Center without the prior written consent of the Sheriff.

False Alarms –

Section 4-6302: It is unlawful for an alarm owner to operate an alarm system that generates six (6) or more false alarms in a twelve (12) month period.

False Alarm Service Charge –

Section 4-6303: (effective August 1, 2013)
False alarms will incur charges based upon the following fee schedule:

Permit holder's first false alarm – No charge
Each false alarm thereafter – \$30.00

Failure to pay the required service assessment could result in civil collection.

To obtain an alarm permit visit

www.sjsheriff.org/alarmpdf.pdf