

REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES - SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL CODE SUMMARY
SECTIONS 33.3700 THROUGH 33.3713 (ROBBERY/BURGLAR ALARMS)
And SECTIONS 55.5101 THROUGH 55.5123 (FIRE AND HARMFUL GAS ALARMS)

The majority of burglar alarms that the San Diego Police and Fire-Rescue Departments respond to are false, resulting in an enormous waste of resources. False alarms create an unnecessary danger to citizens, police officers, and firefighters. The City of San Diego requires permits for Burglary, Robbery, Fire, and Harmful Gas Alarm Systems for both Residential and Commercial Properties.

DEFINITIONS:

Robbery or burglary Alarm System - Any mechanical or electrical device used to detect unauthorized entry into any building or other structure, or to alert others to the possible commission of an unlawful act within a building or other structure, that when triggered emits a sound or transmits a signal or message that is intended to evoke a law enforcement response, including a silent alarm signal generated by the manual activation of a device which is designed to signal a life threatening situation or a crime in progress requiring law enforcement response.

Fire-Harmful Gas Alarm System - Any mechanical or electrical monitoring device capable of giving, signaling, or transmitting a fire or harmful gas emergency alarm that when triggered by an emergency situation emits a sound or transmits a signal or message that is intended to evoke a response by the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. Fire-harmful gas alarm system excludes manually activated residential alarm systems.

False Alarm - An alarm activation causing a response by San Diego Police or Fire-Rescue Departments when an emergency situation does not exist. This includes activations caused by mechanical failure, malfunction, accidental tripping, misuse, or negligent maintenance. It does not include activations caused by weather conditions or telephone line problems.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALARM BUSINESSES:

- Obtain an alarm user permit on behalf of the alarm user before putting the alarm system into service.
- Collect the alarm user permit application and permit fee from each alarm user and mail or hand deliver the complete alarm permit application to the City of San Diego before putting the alarm into service.

REQUIREMENTS TO FILE AN ALARM APPLICATION:

Application must be accompanied by a signed certification by the alarm user and the alarm business stating the following: date of installation, conversion, or takeover, whichever is applicable; City Business Tax Certification Number and state license of the alarm business installing the alarm system, or performing the conversion or takeover of the system; name, address, and phone number of the alarm business or alarm agent responsible for providing repair service to the alarm system; indication that the alarm business has provided the alarm user all necessary information regarding the proper use of the alarm system, including instruction on how to avoid false alarms; an application will not be considered complete if at the time the application is being considered, any fines assessed to the applicant have not been paid.

ALL FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME THE ALARM USER PERMIT IS FILED

ALARM PERMIT REVOCATION AND APPEAL PROCESS:

For Robbery/Burglar Alarms:

The Police Department has the authority to revoke an alarm permit if the number of false alarms exceeds the revocation schedule. The allowable amount of false alarms or "grace" calls for service are:

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| 1 false alarm in any 30 day period | 2 false alarms in any 90 day period |
| 3 false alarms in any 180 day period | 4 false alarms in any one-year-period |

For Fire and Harmful Gas Alarm Systems:

Permitted systems are allowed up to two (2) false alarms per calendar year without incurring a penalty. Additional false alarms in a calendar year will incur escalating penalties plus cost recovery for time spent responding to the alarm call.

If the false alarm count exceeds the number listed in the schedule above, then you will be sent a letter of revocation. The letter will tell you that the false alarm problem must be corrected and written evidence of correction along with the revocation fee be submitted to the City of San Diego within 15 days of the letter being received. Basically, you must fix whatever caused the false alarms and send the evidence and fine to the City of San Diego. Following is the revocation fee schedule:

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| 1st revocation in a 1 year period..... \$110 | 2nd revocation in a 1 year period..... \$ 220 |
| 3rd revocation in a 1 year period.....\$440 | 4th or each additional revocation ... \$2,200 |

Appeal Process:

The Municipal Code allows for an independent review through the City of San Diego Business Office. You must send a letter of appeal within ten (10) days of receiving an alarm permit revocation letter to: Executive Director of Police Practices, 202 C Street, 9th Floor, MS 9A, San Diego, CA 92101.

If you continue to use your alarm after the revocation date and you have not appealed the revocation decision, you can be issued a misdemeanor citation.