

NOTICE

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CHAPTER 1513

Emergency Alarm Systems

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CROSS REFERENCES

UFC F-113.1 through F-113.10 replaced by this Chapter 1513

1513.01 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- (a) The purpose of Chapter 1513 is to protect the emergency services of the Fire Department of the City of Kettering from misuse by responding to defective alarm systems and excessive false alarms and to provide monitoring controls to ensure reliability of fire or medical alarm systems installed within the City of Kettering.
- (b) Chapter 1513 governs and regulates alarm systems, alarm users, and alarm businesses. It requires State of Ohio certification for alarm business and provides for penalties for violations and penalties for excessive false alarms.

1513.02 DEFINITIONS

- (a) "Alarm business" means the business by any individual, partnership, corporations, or other entity of maintaining, servicing, repairing, or installing any alarm system in or on any building, structure, facility or equipment.
- (b) "Alarm system" means any assembly of equipment, mechanical or electrical, arranged to signal the occurrence of a fire condition, or emergency, or any other activity requiring urgent attention and to which the Fire Department is expected to respond. Exception: Single station smoke detectors or other stand alone devices.
- (c) "Alarm user" means any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind in control of any building, structure, or facility wherein an alarm system is installed and or maintained.
- (d) "Automatic dialing device" means a device which is interconnected to a telephone line and is programmed to select a predetermined telephone number and transmit by a voice message or code signal a fire or medical emergency message indicating the need for an emergency response.

- (e) "False alarm" means the activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, electrical failure, malfunction, improper installation or the negligence of the owner or lessee of an alarm system or of his employees or agents.
- (f) "Interconnect" means to connect an alarm system including an automatic dialing device to a telephone either directly or through a mechanical or electrical device that utilizes the telephone, for the purpose of using the telephone line to transmit an emergency message upon activation of the alarm system.
- (g) "Local alarms" means those alarms which activate an audible signal within the proximity of the premises only.
- (h) "Alarm" means any audible or visible signal or intelligence indicating existence of a supposed fire, medical, or other emergency requiring response and emergency action on the part of the Fire Department. Also, the alarm devices or device by which fire, medical, or other emergency signals are received.
- (i) "Automatic" as applied to fire protection devices, automatic refers to a device or system providing an emergency function without necessity of human intervention and activated as a result of a predetermined temperature rise, rate of rise of temperature, or increase in the level of combustion products; or a device used to detect a liquid or gas flow in fire protection system.
- (j) "Alarm system, automatic" means a manual fire alarm system containing automatic fire detection device(s) which activate a fire alarm signal.
- (k) "Alarm system, manual fire" is an interior alarm system composed of sending stations and signaling devices in a building operated on an electrical circuit, so arranged that the operation of any one station will ring all signals throughout the building and at one or more approved locations.
- (l) "Alarm system, sprinkler" is a visual and/or audible alarm activated by a water flow from a sprinkler system.
- (m) "Detector, smoke" is an approved, listed detector for sensing visible or invisible particles of combustion.
- (n) "Detecting device, automatic" is a device which automatically detects heat, smoke, or other products of combustion.
- (o) "Medical alarm" is a manual emergency alarm system containing a switch, button, pad or similar device which causes the transmission of a medical emergency device.

1513.03 CERTIFICATION

No person, firm, or corporation shall engage in the business of servicing, testing, repairing or installing fire protection equipment for profit unless such person, firm or corporation has a valid Ohio

State Fire Marshal's Office fire protection equipment certification as required by Section 3737.65 of the Ohio Revised Code.

1513.04 PERMITS, APPROVALS AND REGISTRATION

- (a) Any person, firm or corporation, prior to installing any fire alarm system except a medical alarm in a building or structure regulated by the Ohio Basic Building Code, shall first secure a permit from the City of Kettering Planning and Development Department.
- (b) Prior to the installation of any fire alarm system in a building or structure regulated by the Ohio Building Code, three (3) sets of detailed plans shall be submitted to the City of Kettering Planning and Development Department. The City of Kettering shall forward said plans to the fire department for review and approval.
- (c) All alarm systems as defined herein, except those installed in buildings or structures regulated by the Ohio Basic Building Code, shall be registered with the Kettering Fire Department. Registration will be conducted at the Kettering Police Department. A registration fee as determined by the Fire Department shall accompany the registration application.

1513.05 ACCEPTANCE TEST

- (a) Before final approval and acceptance of fire alarm, detection, or any other fire protection device including emergency generators and fire ventilating systems in any building or structure, the installation shall be subjected to the testing prescribed in the Unified Fire Code and conducted in the presence of the code official. A building, structure or any portion thereof shall not be occupied until all required fire alarm systems have been tested and approved.
- (b) All required tests shall be conducted by and at the expense and risk of the owner or a representative of the owner. The code official shall not be held responsible for any damages incurred during any such test. Where the presence of the code official is required for testing under the provisions of the Unified Fire Code, the code official shall be notified not less than 48 hours before said test is made.

1513.06 EXCESSIVE FALSE ALARMS

If any fire or medical alarm system produces three (3) false alarms in any twelve consecutive month period, written notice of that fact shall be given by regular mail or delivery to the alarm user.

EXCEPTION: New alarm installations shall have an exemption period as determined by the code official, not exceeding ninety (90) days from the date of the final acceptance test.

1513.07 EMERGENCY ALARM GENERAL PROVISIONS

- (a) **Automatic Dialing or Calling Devices:** Fire alarm systems that automatically dial or call the Kettering Fire Department must be called on a special telephone line or communications circuit designated by the Fire Department and shall comply with the following:

- (1) Total length of the recorded messages (3 messages minimum) being transmitted to the Fire Department Communication Center (including repetition of message) shall not exceed forty-five (45) seconds.
 - (2) The recorded message transmitted shall be repeated not less than three (3) nor more than four (4) times and shall have an automatic abort feature to ensure this requirement.
 - (3) The recorded message being transmitted shall incorporate language specifically identifying the message as a "recording" with the balance of the message identifying by street number and street name the location of the emergency and the nature of the event which caused the alarm system to activate. If the location of the event/condition signaled by the alarm system is a multi-tenant, multi-family or a commercial building containing multiple floors, the message shall identify the location of the activated device or location of the alarm system annunciator.
 - (4) All alarm systems having automatic dialing or calling devices that are not connected to an approved central station monitoring service shall transmit the alarm message directly to the Fire Department. If the automatic dialing or calling device has multiple notification capability, the first notification of a fire or medical emergency shall be transmitted to the Fire Department.
 - (5) The recorded message being transmitted to the Fire Department shall be appropriate for the purpose for which the alarm system was installed, and the message in its entirety shall be intelligible and spoken in the English language.
- (b) Combination Burglar/Fire Alarm Systems: Combination burglar (security, robbery, intrusion) alarm systems and fire alarm systems shall meet the provisions of this ordinance for that portion of the system that is designed for fire or medical conditions. The use of an alarm circuit for both fire and burglar detection devices shall be prohibited.
 - (c) Listed/Approved Fire Alarm Systems: All fire alarm systems shall be listed for the use intended by a nationally recognized test laboratory. The use of non-commercial fire alarm system in commercial buildings shall be prohibited.
 - (d) Resetting: All fire and medical alarms shall have the ability to reset themselves within 15 minutes, once the fire or medical condition has been eliminated.
 - (e) Outside Audible Alarms: All outside audible devices that are connected to a fire alarm system other than a combination burglar fire alarm system shall have a sign in one (1) inch letters stating:
"Fire Alarm System"
"Contact the Fire Department"
"293-2151"

- (f) Instructions: Every alarm business selling, leasing, installing, or furnishing to any user a fire or medical alarm system which is installed on premises located within the City of Kettering shall furnish the user with a complete set of instructions providing information that will enable the user to operate and reset the alarm system properly and detailed information on how to obtain service for the alarm system in an expeditious manner.

1513.08 RIGHT TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION

The alarm user of any building or structure containing a fire or medical system shall permit the Kettering Fire Department the right to conduct any investigation necessary to investigate and verify the authenticity of an alarm. This requirement shall apply to automatic and local alarm systems irrespective of the notification method either by an automatic dialing, calling device or an outside audible alarm device.

1513.09 APPLICATION OF STANDARDS TO EXISTING AND FUTURE ALARM SYSTEMS

- (a) Every new system installed after the effective date of this ordinance shall comply with the above standards.
- (b) Every alarm system existing before the effective date of this ordinance shall be placed in compliance with the above standard no later than one (1) year after such effective date.

1513.10 LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY

The City shall not be liable for any failure or neglect to respond appropriately upon receipt of an alarm from such a device, nor for the failure of any person with a certification required pursuant to this ordinance or with a franchise, in connection with the installation and operation of equipment, nor the failure of the transmission of alarm signals and pre-recorded alarm messages, or the relaying of such signals and pre-recorded alarm message, or the relaying of such signals and messages. In the event that the City finds it necessary to disconnect a defective automatic dialing system or signaling device, the City shall incur no liability by such action.

1513.11 ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY

- (a) Enforcement of any of the provisions of the Fire Prevention Code in general or of Chapter 1513 in particular may be by civil action and/or criminal prosecution.
- (b) Failure or omission to comply with any section of this chapter shall be deemed to constitute a 4th degree misdemeanor.
- (c) The penalty for violation of any section or provision within this chapter shall be as provided by the Ohio Revised Code a 4th degree misdemeanor.
- (d) Any fire or medical alarm system creating an excessive alarm condition as defined in Section 1513.06 shall be subject to following conditions:
- (1) If more than three (3) false alarms are produced by any alarm system in a 12 month period, a fee of \$50.00 shall be assessed the alarm user for the fourth

false alarm, and \$100.00 shall be assessed for each successive false alarm thereafter.

- (i) Such charges shall continue for each excessive false alarm until six consecutive months have elapsed during which time no false alarms have been received by the Fire Department
- (2) The alarm user of an alarm system, other than an alarm system required under the Ohio Basic Building Code, may be required by the Fire Department to disconnect the alarm system immediately in such fashion that signals are not emitted so as to notify the Fire Department either directly or indirectly.
 - (i) Any alarm user who fails to disconnect as required above shall be deemed to be in violation of this ordinance.
 - (ii) An alarm system may be reconnected only if satisfactory evidence is provided to the Bureau of Fire Prevention that the alarm system has been repaired so that it does not emit further false alarms and upon payment of all delinquent charges assessed for false alarms.

1513.12 SEPARABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this chapter is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter.