

City of Beverly, NJ
Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Chapter 133. Alarm Systems

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Common Council of the City of Beverly 7-27-2004 by Ord. No. 2004-7. Amendments noted where applicable.]

§ 133-1. Findings; determinations.

The Common Council of the City of Beverly, hereby finds and determines that:

- A. The occupants of many residential and commercial establishments located within the City of Beverly have found it desirable to make provisions for the installation upon their premises of alarm systems for emergencies such as burglary and fire.
- B. Whereas, there have been a substantial number of false alarms which will lead to an unnecessary drain upon the manpower, time, space facilities and finances of the City, its Police and Fire Departments and the deterioration of the quality service provided to persons operating and relying upon alarm systems.

§ 133-2. Purpose.

This chapter has as its purpose the regulating of private alarm systems within the City limits in order to alleviate conditions otherwise leading to an unnecessary drain on the City of Beverly and its Police and Fire Departments.

§ 133-3. Scope.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to any person, other than the City of Beverly, who owns any alarm device or local alarm designed to summon the Police Department, Fire Department, or other municipal agency to any location in response to any type of alarm signal.

§ 133-4. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ALARM DEVICE

Any type of alarm-activating equipment which provides warning of burglary, intrusion, fire, flood or like peril.

ALARM SYSTEM

The installation in one or more buildings of one or more alarm devices for the express purpose of giving visual and or audible warning or an emergency such as burglary, intrusion, fire, flood or like peril.

ALARM USER

Any person, firm, partnership association, corporation, company or organization of any kind in control of any building, structure or facility wherein an alarm device or system is maintained.

FALSE ALARM

An alarm signal eliciting a response by police or firefighters or other public officials when a situation requiring a response by police or firefighters or other public officials does not in fact exist (but excluding an alarm signal caused by violent conditions of nature or other extraordinary circumstances not reasonably subject to control by the alarm user).

INDEPENDENT SMOKE DETECTOR

A device giving an audible alarm indicating smoke and or fire within a structure and not connected to an alarm system or to any external sounding device outside of the structure.

§ 133-5. Registration of alarm system.

- A. No person shall install, operate or maintain any alarm system unless the alarm system has been registered with the Police Department.
- B. An alarm system shall be deemed registered at such time as a registration form supplied by the Police Department is completed as to all information requested therein.
- C. The information to be provided on the registration form shall include.
 - (1) The name, address, telephone number of the owner of the property upon which the alarm system is installed.
 - (2) The type of system.
 - (3) A list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of the person(s) to be contacted in the event of an alarm or in an emergency situation determined by the Police Department.
 - (4) The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the persons or company maintaining or monitoring the system.
- D. In order to ensure that the information on file with the Police Department is maintained on a current basis, an annual renewal registration shall be required with the filing of current registration information with the Police Department. In addition, whenever there has occurred any material change in the information previously submitted with respect to any alarm system, it shall be the duty of the user of the alarm system, within 10 days of any material change, to file a supplemental or revised registration containing accurate, current information.
- E. Triannual registration shall be by July 1. No fee shall be charged for supplemental or revised information. The City of Beverly shall send reminders of registration due in the annual tax bill every three years.
- F. All preexisting alarm systems shall comply with the registration requirements of this section not later than September 7, 2004.

§ 133-6. Registration fee.

The City of Beverly hereby establishes that no fee shall be collected for the registration of alarm systems.

§ 133-7. Activation and operation of alarm systems.

- A. Each alarm system shall be installed utilizing discreet circuitry for multipurpose alarm systems to insure appropriate emergency response.
- B. Any alarm system, which requires for its operation electricity supplied by a public utility, may be equipped with a battery rendering it operable in the event of a power outage if so desired by the property owner. Such a battery backup system shall only be required for any alarm system, which will trigger automatically in the event of a power outage.
- C. No alarm system may be connected directly or indirectly to the Police Department, except as may be specifically authorized by the City Fire Chief or the Director of Public Safety.
- D. No person shall install, cause to be installed or permit to be installed any alarm device, by whatever name known, which automatically selects a telephone line dedicated to the Police Department or Fire Department for the purpose of playing a recorded message to report any emergency.
- E. In the event of an alarm system, other than a fire or holdup alarm system, is tied into and/or serviced by a central station or answering service upon activation of the alarm system, the central system or answering system shall verify the validity of the alarm and shall immediately notify the Police Department if the alarm does not require a police or fire response.
- F. No Police, Fire or other public department or official shall be responsible in any way for the resetting or maintenance of any alarm system.
- G. No person owning, using or possessing an alarm system shall cause or permit the giving of repeated false alarms, whether intentional, accidental or otherwise.
- H. A person owning, using or possessing an alarm system that may want to know about a response to any alarm by the Police Department shall contact the Department. The Police Department will not contact automatically any person or answering service to advise them concerning the result of the Department's response to any alarm.
- I. An alarm business having knowledge of same shall be responsible for notifying the Police Department when one of its customers possessing an alarm system sells his property. The alarm business shall notify the Police Department as to the name of the new owner and whether or not the new owner is continuing with an alarm device or system within the property.
[Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I)]
- J. A homeowner possessing or using an alarm system shall also be responsible for notifying the Police Department of the sale of his or her property. The homeowner shall notify the Police Department as to the name of the new owner and whether or not the new owner is continuing with an alarm device or system within the property.
[Added at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I)]

§ 133-8. Confidentiality.

[Added at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I)]

All information submitted in compliance with this chapter shall be held in the strictest confidence and shall be deemed a record exempt from public disclosure. Any violation of confidentiality shall be deemed a violation of this chapter.

§ 133-9. Exceptions.

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to any alarm system installed on property occupied by any township, county, state or federal government agency or office, nor to an independent smoke detector as defined in this chapter.

§ 133-10. Violations and penalties; fees for false alarms.

- A. Any person who fails to register an alarm system as required by the provisions of this chapter is subject to a fee as provided in Chapter **260**, Fee Schedule, of the Code of the City of Beverly. [Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I)]
- B. First, second and third false alarm. A warning shall be issued for more than two false alarms within a twelve-month period.
- C. Fourth and fifth alarm. For the fourth or fifth alarm in a twelve-month period, a fee as provided in Chapter **260** shall be paid to the City of Beverly. [Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I)]
- D. Sixth and subsequent false alarms. For the sixth and subsequent alarms in a twelve-month period, a fee as provided in Chapter **260** shall be paid to the City of Beverly. [Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I)]
- E. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, any false alarm which occurs during the first 60 days after an alarm system is installed shall not be counted towards the number of false alarms as provided for in this section.
- F. Intentional false alarms. Any person who intentionally causes the giving of a false alarm shall be in violation of this section and subject to a penalty of not less than \$200 and not more than \$1,000 for each offense.
- G. Confidentiality. Any person who intentionally violates § **133-8** shall be in violation of this chapter and subject to a penalty of not less than \$200 and no more than \$5,000 for each such offense.

§ 133-11. Appeals.

Any person charged in this chapter with a false alarm may, in writing, appeal to the Director of Public Safety, who may use his/her discretion in the charge of the false alarm.

§ 133-12. Effective date.

This chapter shall take effect as of the first day September 2004.