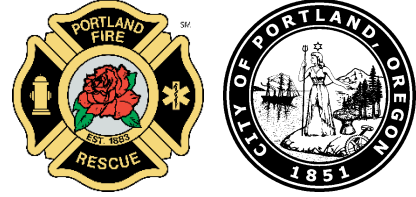


PORTLAND FIRE & RESCUE

AUGUST 28, 2018



FIR 6.06 - REPETITIVE COMMERCIAL ALARM RESPONSES

I. SCOPE

- A. This policy is established June 19, 2007.
- B. The purpose of this policy is to identify the process for addressing locations that are experiencing multiple false alarm activations.
- C. Through early identification of frequent false alarms coupled with early code enforcement action, a reduction in the total number of repetitive alarm responses should be achieved.
- D. This policy applies to all commercial occupancies where Portland Fire & Rescue (PF&R) has authority.

II. SPECIFIC

- A. References
 1. Portland City Code (PCC) Title 31.10.070
- B. Definitions
 1. False Alarm: any alarm that does not have a true emergency related to it. This includes but is not limited to: malicious alarms, nuisance alarms, unintentional alarms or unknown alarms.
 2. Responsible Party (RP): property owner or their representative who shall respond to the site during or following an alarm. The RP will coordinate the restoration of the system as well as security of the property. **Maximum allowed response time is two hours following the initial alarm.**

NOTE: The RP failing to arrive within the two-hour response time limit may result in a citation. See City Policy FIR 12.01 - Fire Regulations Fee Schedule for citation amounts.

III. GUIDANCE

- A. False alarms will be tracked on a rolling 12-month time frame using the PF&R Incident System. When an increment of three false alarms during the previous 12-months are entered into the system for a specific address, a notification shall be generated and sent to the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO).
 - 1. The FMO will evaluate the situation and determine the level of response needed.
 - 2. When the FMO receives three false alarms, notification will be sent to the RP requesting immediate abatement and repair and placing the RP on notice that additional false alarms will result in citations.
 - 3. If the FMO deems it appropriate due to life safety issues, the level of response may move directly to the first citation.

- B. When an additional three false alarms are entered into the system for the same address (a total of 6 in a 12-month period), a second notification shall be generated and sent to the FMO.
 - 1. The FMO will:
 - a. Send the RP a notice demanding immediate abatement and repair and notifying the RP that a citation is being issued.
 - b. Issue the first citation.
 - c. Issue an inspection report directing the RP to correct the problem.
 - d. Consider requiring the installation of a lock box.
 - e. This series may be postponed if the FMO believes such action is not appropriate or a Fire Code Appeal is granted.

- C. When an additional three false alarms are entered into the system for the same address (a total of 9 in a 12-month period), a third notification shall be generated and sent to the FMO.
 - 1. The FMO will:
 - a. Send the RP a notice demanding immediate abatement and repair and notifying the RP that they are being issued another citation.
 - b. Issue the second citation.
 - c. Issue an inspection report directing the RP to correct the problem.
NOTE: Additional citations shall be issued for additional false alarms in a 12-month period.
 - d. Consider requiring the installation of a lock box.
 - e. This series may be postponed if the FMO believes such action is not appropriate or a Fire Code Appeal is granted.

- D. Citation fees are specified in City Policy FIR 12.01 – Fire Regulations Fee Schedule, and will escalate for repeat violations.

E. Examples of citable violations:

- Failure to repair and maintain the system.
- Failure to immediately repair and maintain the system in a high-risk situation such as an assembly occupancy, multi-family dwelling or hazardous materials operation.
- The RP failing to arrive within the two-hour response time limit.

F. At any point the FMO may choose to file for a Code Hearing to seek additional penalties and enforcement.



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