

Nuisance Alarm Ordinance for the Town of Newry

This Ordinance shall be known and be cited as the "Nuisance Alarm Ordinance for the Town of Newry, Maine." {drafted July 2023}

I. Purpose.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish appropriate guidelines for the response to nuisance alarms and non-emergency E-911 calls by the Newry Fire Department, within the Town of Newry, Maine.

II. Definitions.

For this Ordinance, certain terms or words used herein shall be defined as follows:

Alarm initiating device

An automatic or manually operated device in an alarm system that, when activated, causes the alarm system to indicate an alarm condition.

Alarm System

A system, including but not limited to any mechanism, equipment or device designed to automatically transmit a signal, message or warning, either directly or by two-way communication, from a private facility or residence to the Town's fire department or mutual aid fire department(s), or to the Oxford County Regional Communication Center, or to a private security or property management business entity and then to the Town's fire department or mutual aid fire department(s) or to the Oxford County Regional Communication Center.

Audible alarm

An alarm system which causes an audible signal to sound at or near the alarm premises for the purpose of obtaining emergency response by the Town's fire department or mutual aid fire department(s).

E-911

The emergency system in which the caller, location, and phone number of an emergency call can be traced through the Oxford County Regional Communication Center.

Non-emergency E-911 Call

A call by which a caller either intentionally or inadvertently utilizes the E-911 system for a nonemergency call.

Nuisance Alarm

An unwanted activation of an alarm system, a signaling system, or an alarm initiating device in response to a stimulus or condition that is not the result of a potentially hazardous condition.

Owner

Any person or persons, firm, association, corporation or entity owning, renting, in possession of, in control of, or occupying a residence, building, condominium, or structure equipped with an alarm system as defined in this section. Homeowners associations, condominium or townhouse organizations, and hotels will be considered as one structure, no matter which unit, or individual residence or room caused the nuisance alarm or non-emergency call.

III. Response by Fire Department or Mutual Aid Departments.

Upon notification or receipt of a signal, message or warning from an alarm system, depending on the type of alarm, the Newry Fire Department or mutual aid department(s) will be dispatched to the scene to take appropriate action. If the premises in which the alarm system is installed appears secure and there is no evidence to indicate that there is an emergency situation requiring the presence or action of the Newry Fire Department or mutual aid department(s), the Town's obligation to the owner shall have been discharged upon the completion of one telephone call or email to the owner, the owner's representative, or the private security or the property management business entity in charge of the alarm system.

IV. Assessment of fines.

Any owner whose alarm system causes the transmission of a nuisance alarm more than three (3) times in a calendar year, or a non-emergency E-911 call more than four (4) times in one calendar year shall be assessed a fine of \$250.00 and, and shall be fined an additional \$500.00 for each additional instance of a nuisance alarm or non-emergency E-911 call or within that same calendar year. Fines are payable to the Town within 30 days of the date of the response to the nuisance alarm or non-emergency call.

V. Disconnection of alarm system.

Any owner whose alarm system causes the transmission of three or more non-emergency alarms within a twenty-four-hour period shall, upon request of the Town's fire chief or assistant chief, immediately disconnect the alarm system, and shall not reconnect it until it has been repaired by the owner and inspected by the Town's fire chief or assistant chief.

VI. Violations and penalties for non-payment of Section IV. Assessment of Fines.

Any owner who fails to timely pay a fine assessed under Section IV. Assessment of Fines in this Ordinance shall be subject to a penalty of a minimum of one hundred dollars

(\$100.00) up to a maximum of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for each offense, to be recovered on complaint for use of the Town under Title 30-A MRSA §4452. Each day after which a violation is found to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

VII. Amendments.

This Ordinance may be amended by a warrant article at the annual Town Meeting.

Attested date: May 15, 2024

Clerk 
Signature

Adopted May 14 - 2024
Town Meeting Date