

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Date: April 15, 2004

False Alarm Ordinance

Michigan City, IN (April 15, 2004) – Mayor Chuck Oberlie and Police Chief Gene Simmons announced the implementation of a new ordinance regarding alarm procedures in Michigan City.

Ordinance No. 3916 is intended to reduce the number of false alarms activated by private emergency alarm systems and thereby reduce the City's commitment of law enforcement and fire resources required to answer these false alarms.

According to Ordinance 3916, a false alarm "means an alarm eliciting a police or fire response in which the police or fire department actually responds to the source of the alarm when the situation does not require police or fire services. Any alarm that is deactivated prior to the police or fire response will not be considered a false alarm under this ordinance."

Alarms triggered by severe atmospheric conditions or other circumstances not reasonably under control of the alarm user, installer or maintainer are not considered to be "false alarms." Severe atmospheric conditions are defined as lightning, hail, earthquake, tornadoes, thunderstorms, severe heat, severe rain, explosions or other natural conditions or acts that may cause the alarm to activate.

Fire Department Deputy Chief Mark Donaldson said, "Phase I of implementing this ordinance is the registration of all alarms. The Fire Department began passing out registration forms on April 1st as fire inspections were made. On April 15, the alarm companies will be mailed a request that they notify their clients of the new ordinance regarding false alarms. The Police Department will provide forms to the managers of the larger shopping complexes."

Police Department Deputy Chief Stephen Jesse said, "All residential and commercial alarm systems must be registered with the City of Michigan City. Alarm permits are valid for one year and are renewable on January 1st of each year. The annual fee for each business or residential alarm is \$5.00 and is not transferable."

An alarm system is any device used for the detection of an unauthorized entry or attempted entry into a building, structure, facility, or grounds or for alerting others of the commission of an unlawful act within a building, structure or grounds, and/or the detection of heat, smoke, or a drop in water pressure. An alarm system may also be "any other means of alerting others of a chemical, gases or fire-related hazardous condition in or on any building, structure or grounds. Any alarm which, when activated, causes notification to be made directly or indirectly to the Michigan City Fire Department, the Michigan City Police Department or the LaPorte County Sheriff's Department is under the jurisdiction of Ordinance No. 3916.

Questions about the new false alarm ordinance, the registration forms or the fee should be directed to any of the following law enforcement officers:

Fire Department Deputy Chief Mark Donaldson	219/873-1440
Police Department Deputy Chief Stephen Jesse	219/874-3221
Police Department Traffic Commander Mark Harris	219/874-3221

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Contact: Mark Donaldson

Phone: 219/873-1440