

Town of Greenville Fire Department False Alarm Ordinance
Drafted April 26, 2006
Adopted at Annual Town Meeting June 5, 2006

YES still in place
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I. Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a fee system associated with false alarms triggered by electronic or mechanical alarm systems within the Greenville Fire Department Coverage Area.

II. Definitions

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following terms will be defined as follows:

Greenville Fire Department: The Town of Greenville's municipal fire department offers a variety of services ranging from structural firefighting, rescue services, emergency medical services (first responder – non-transporting), hazardous materials response, and related utility functions typically associated with a municipal fire department. The Greenville Fire Station is located at 10 Minden Street in Greenville.

Greenville Fire Department Coverage Area: This refers to the jurisdiction area of the Greenville Fire Department which includes the entire municipality of Greenville; and the areas under contract with the Greenville Fire Department for protection (Beaver Cove, and the unorganized territories of Big Moose Twp.; Moosehead Junction Twp.; Harfords Point Twp.; Lily Bay Twp.; and Frenchtown Twp).

Electronic / Mechanical Alarm System: Any electronic or mechanical alarm system which senses (either through temperature or presence of smoke) a possible fire in a structure, and then electronically or mechanically contacts an alarm company, which then contacts the dispatch service for the Greenville Fire Department.

Call-Out: The act of the dispatch service for the Greenville Fire Department (Piscataquis County Sheriff's Office) triggering the radio repeater system for the Greenville Fire Department (often referred to as "setting off the tones") and announcing over this radio system to fire department members the details of the call.

False Alarm: A call-out for a false report of an emergency.

III. Penalty System for False Alarms Triggered by Electronic / Mechanical Alarm Systems

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Whereas false alarms result in financial cost to the Greenville Fire Department, and;

Whereas repeated false alarms at the same location can inadvertently result in a less aggressive response by the members of the fire department, and;

Whereas repeated false alarms can result in fire department resources being deployed to areas where they are not needed, and;

Whereas false alarms triggered by electronic / mechanical devices may be corrected through timely maintenance and are distinct from calls derived from a live person who mistakenly identifies a need for the fire department;

Therefore, the Town of Greenville hereby implements the following penalty system for false alarms derived from electronic / mechanical devices:

First and second false alarms from an electronic / mechanical alarm system within a calendar year: no charge.

Third false alarm from an electronic / mechanical alarm system within a 24-hour period: \$100 fee assessed to the owner of record for the property to which the alarm sends the fire department.

Fourth and each subsequent false alarm from an electronic / mechanical alarm system within a calendar year: \$250 fee assessed to the owner of record for the property to which the alarm sends the fire department.

IV. False Alarms Outside Town of Greenville But Within Coverage Area

False alarms from electronic / mechanical alarm systems for properties located within the Greenville Fire Department's Coverage Area but outside of the Town of Greenville will be addressed through contracts with those other governmental entities for fire protection services.

