



The Corporation of the District of North Cowichan

False Alarm Bylaw

Bylaw 3610

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WHEREAS excessive numbers of false alarms are being permitted to occur by the owners and users of fire and security alarm systems;

AND WHEREAS false alarms require emergency responses from the fire department or police and such unnecessary emergency responses pose a threat to the safety of fire fighters, police and members of the public by creating unnecessary hazards, and may result in a delayed response to a true emergency;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the District of North Cowichan enacts as follows:

Definitions

1 In this Bylaw:

"alarm system" means a device installed on property to warn about a fire, criminal activity or unauthorized entry by activating an audible signal, or alerting a monitoring agency;

"false alarm" means the triggering of an alarm system, other than by an act of nature or power failure, that results in an emergency response from the Fire Department or police where none is required;

"Fire Department" means the North Cowichan Fire Department, including the Chemainus, Crofton, Maple Bay, and South End fire halls;

"hold-up alarm" means a security alarm system in a financial institution to signal a robbery;

"monitoring agency" means a person, partnership, or company that monitors an alarm system and reports alarms to the Fire Department or police;

"North Cowichan" means The Corporation of the District of North Cowichan;

"police" means the North Cowichan/Duncan Detachment of the R.C.M.P.

Owner or occupier's duties

2 An owner or occupier of property on which an alarm system is installed must properly install, maintain, use and operate the alarm system to prevent false alarms.

Monitoring agency's duties

- 3 (1) A monitoring agency must not report an alarm, other than a hold-up alarm, to the Fire Department or police unless it first tries to verify that the alarm is not false.
- (2) If a monitoring agency reports an alarm to the Fire Department or police, it must ask the owner, occupier, or other person responsible for the property containing the alarm system to attend the property.

Administration

- 4 (1) The police, Fire Department, or agency providing dispatch services to the Fire Department, as applicable, must provide North Cowichan with information it needs to administer this Bylaw, including a monthly report setting out the property address and date of false alarms.
- (2) The Bylaw Compliance Officer, a peace officer, or the Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner may provide written notification, where feasible, to the owner or occupier of property from which a false alarm originates about the consequences of more false alarms originating from the property.

Fees and collections

- 5 (1) An owner of real property from which a false alarm originates must pay North Cowichan the fee prescribed in the Fees Bylaw for each third and subsequent false alarm to originate from the property within a 12 month period.
- (2) A fee that is not paid after 30-days must be added to and form part of the taxes payable on the real property as taxes in arrears.
- (3) Fees collected are North Cowichan's property.

Offences and penalties

6 A monitoring agency that violates section 3 is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than \$1 000, plus the cost of prosecution.

Repeal

7 False Alarm Bylaw 2001, No. 3118, is repealed.

READ a first time on April 6, 2016
 READ a second time on April 6, 2016
 READ a third time on April 6, 2016
 ADOPTED on April 20, 2016



 CORPORATE OFFICER



 PRESIDING MEMBER