

Chapter 6

ALARM SYSTEMS

ARTICLE I

Rapid Entry Systems

- § 6-1. Installation.**
- § 6-2. Exceptions.**
- § 6-3. Keys.**
- § 6-4. Cabinet-style vaults.**
- § 6-5. Type of equipment.**
- § 6-6. Ordering equipment.**
- § 6-7. Implementation.**

- § 6-9. Definitions.**
- § 6-10. Service charge.**
- § 6-11. Permissible false emergency alarm calls.**
- § 6-12. Alarm system maintenance.**
- § 6-13. Town and government buildings.**
- § 6-14. Prohibited systems.**
- § 6-15. Administration.**
- § 6-16. Waiver.**
- § 6-17. Limitation of liability.**

ARTICLE II

False Emergency Alarms

- § 6-8. Purpose.**

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town of Plaistow as indicated in article histories. Amendments noted where applicable.]

ARTICLE I

Rapid Entry Systems

[Adopted 3-12-1991 ATM by Art. 23]

§ 6-1. Installation. [Amended 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]

Rapid entry systems shall be installed on all buildings which have central alarm systems for fire and/or security which cause the Plaistow Fire Department to respond to the property; on all residential properties with common corridors to individual units, which common areas are locked for security reasons (central entry and corridor door keys only); on all malls with enclosed entry into individual units; and on all commercial structures without windows, which are more than 40 feet in depth. Windows which are covered or located so that access and/or visibility to the inside of the structure is blocked shall not be considered as windows.

§ 6-2. Exceptions. [Amended 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]

Rapid entry systems do not need to be provided on any one- or two-family dwellings, nor any building or site with a guard service with keys to each door/lock under the guard's supervision 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

§ 6-3. Keys.

The rapid entry system shall contain keys for access to the building, fire alarm panel, fire alarm panel room, electrical room(s), elevator and door, and elevator room, and for access to all occupied floors within the structure. It is the responsibility of the owner to provide and maintain keys on an up-to-date basis. The Chief of the Plaistow Fire Department must be contacted in order to gain entry to the rapid entry system.

§ 6-4. Cabinet-style vaults.

Cabinet-style vaults for hazardous material information and MSDS data sheets, floor plans and other chemical information may be required by the Fire Chief when the structure has any hazardous material on site or in the structure. The cabinet-style vault may be combined with the rapid entry system.

§ 6-5. Type of equipment.

The rapid entry system and cabinet-style vault shall have a single lock and alarm tamper switch(es). If the building is protected by a burglar alarm system, the box switch(es) shall be connected so that when the box is opened or removed from the building an alarm will sound. If the building is not protected by a burglar alarm system, the box may be connected to the fire alarm, provided the connection is on the fire side, signaling an alarm. Connection to the fire alarm requires that the box be zoned separately from the fire detection system and noted on the fire alarm annunciator panel as rapid entry system.

§ 6-6. Ordering equipment.

The owner or his agent is responsible for ordering and installing the rapid entry system and/or cabinet-style vault. Approved order forms are available only at the Plaistow Fire Department.

§ 6-7. Implementation. [Amended 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]

Equipment will be installed on all new buildings, when required by this article, prior to the issuance of an occupancy permit. Equipment shall be installed on existing buildings, when required by this article, upon change of occupancy, use or ownership.

ARTICLE II
False Emergency Alarms
[Adopted 5-1-2000 by the Board of Selectmen]

§ 6-8. Purpose.

- A. The Plaistow Police and Fire Departments have the responsibility of assuring that emergency alarm calls are answered as promptly and safely as possible. Persons or businesses that have an alarm system place a great deal of confidence in these Departments

that any trouble arising at their home or place of business will be handled professionally and efficiently. **[Amended 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]**

- B. False alarms can negatively impact the efficiency and safety of these types of calls for service. Numerous false alarms can lead to complacency on the part of the responding officers and may put persons found on the premises (at the time of the false alarm) in a precarious situation.
- C. The alarm holder, in conjunction with the Police and Fire Departments, has a responsibility to maintain and ensure that his alarm system is working properly. Through this article, the Town of Plaistow hopes to address this situation in a manner that will be beneficial to the Police and Fire Departments as well as the community as a whole. **[Amended 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]**

§ 6-9. Definitions.

For the purpose of this article, the following definitions will be applicable:

ALARM ANSWERING SERVICE — A telephone answering service which provides the service of receiving emergency signals from alarm systems and thereafter immediately notifying, by live voice or otherwise, the Communications Center of the Police and Fire Departments. **[Amended 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]**

ALARM INSTALLATION — The design, positioning, repair, alteration, maintenance, and operation of alarm systems causing a signal to be sounded in the event of a hazard, intrusion, or the occurrence of an event to which police are expected to respond.

ALARM SYSTEM — Any combination or assembly of equipment and/or electronic devices which, with or without human involvement, is reasonably calculated to notify police officials and lead them to believe that there is a situation requiring their immediate attention and response.

ALARM USER — Any person who owns and/or operates an alarm system within the Town of Plaistow, except for alarm systems on motor vehicles.

DIRECT DIAL TAPE ALARM SYSTEM — An alarm system which automatically selects a telephone line connected to the Police Department and reproduces a prerecorded voice message or coded signal indicating the existence of an emergency situation that the alarm system is designed to detect.

FALSE ALARM — An activation of an alarm system (business or residential) to which police respond and find no indication of a situation requiring their immediate attention (robbery, burglary, attempted robbery or burglary, hazard, intrusion, smoke or heat detection, sprinkler system operation or trouble alarms). **[Amended 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]**

LOCAL ALARM — Any alarm system not connected to an answering service that is designed to activate an audible and/or visual signaling device at the premises or location where the alarm system is installed.

MANUAL ALARM — Any alarm system in which activation of the alarm is initiated by the direct action of the alarm user, his agents, or employees and which is installed with the purpose of eliciting a police response to a robbery, burglary, or an attempted robbery or burglary, or Fire Department response for known fire or smoke investigations. **[Amended 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]**

§ 6-10. Service charge. [Amended 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]

- A. The owner of any premises served by an alarm system will be obligated to pay a service charge to the Town of Plaistow for all false emergency alarm calls to that premises in excess of the number of such calls permitted by this article. This service charge shall be calculated as follows:
- (1) Police:
 - (a) Six through nine calls per calendar year: \$25 per call.
 - (b) Ten or more calls per calendar year: \$50 per call.
 - (2) Fire:
 - (a) Fourth false alarm per calendar year: \$100.
 - (b) Fifth false alarm: \$100 plus the cost of responding Fire Department members and apparatus.
 - (c) Six or greater: \$200 plus the cost of the responding Fire Department members and apparatus.
- B. Said service charge is to be paid within 30 days of billing with payment being made to the Town of Plaistow, New Hampshire, and submitted to:
- (1) Plaistow Police Department, 27 Elm Street, Plaistow, New Hampshire 03865, ATTN: Records Clerk.
 - (2) Plaistow Fire Department, 27 Elm Street, Plaistow, New Hampshire 03865, ATTN: Fire Chief.

§ 6-11. Permissible false emergency alarm calls.

- A. The owner of any premises served by an alarm system will be permitted the following number of false emergency alarm calls per calendar year prior to the imposition of a service charge:
- (1) False emergency alarm calls to the Police Department: five calls per calendar year.
 - (2) False emergency calls to the Plaistow Fire Department: three calls per calendar year. **[Added 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]**
- B. The owner of any premises served by an alarm system will not be penalized for a false emergency alarm call that occurs for the following reasons:
- (1) Natural disaster/act of nature (lightning, hurricane, flood, tornado, etc.).

- (2) Power outage.
- (3) An actual situation which determines that the alarm was set off by some type of criminal activity or actual fire. **[Amended 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]**
- (4) Testing purposes in which the alarm is activated by the alarm holder and/or a maintenance company, as long as said holder or company has previously notified the Police or Fire Department that the system is being tested; notification of the test after activation will be considered a false alarm under the definition of this article and will be charged accordingly. **[Amended 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]**

§ 6-12. Alarm system maintenance.

Any residence or business maintaining an alarm system located wholly or in part within the Town of Plaistow will be subject to the following provisions:

- A. Such alarm systems will be maintained in strict conformance with any operating standards that may be, from time to time, promulgated by the Town which has jurisdiction over the premises in which the alarm system is located.
- B. All alarm systems will be maintained in conformance with industry and/or manufacturer standards, and all local, state, and federal permits and requirements must be met.

§ 6-13. Town and government buildings.

All town, state, county, federal and/or government owned or maintained buildings will be exempt from the service charges, fees, and permit requirements imposed in this article. These buildings include, but are not limited to, the Plaistow Town Hall, the Plaistow Public Library, the Plaistow District Court, and all school buildings. However, these institutions will comply with all other aspects of this article concerning the operation and maintenance of their alarm systems.

§ 6-14. Prohibited systems.

The use of direct dial tape alarm systems, which automatically engage available telephone lines, is prohibited within the Town of Plaistow.

§ 6-15. Administration.

- A. It will be the responsibility of the Records Clerks of the Police and Fire Departments, respectively, to research, document, maintain, and bill for false alarms in conformance with this article. The Records Clerks will also be responsible for maintaining records of accounts receivable and accounts payable to ensure that the fines imposed are paid in full by the due date specified. **[Amended 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]**
- B. It will be the responsibility of the Communications Supervisor to send a warning letter to any resident or business who or which has accrued the maximum allowable false alarm calls for service. This letter will notify the property owner of this article and of the fact that

the property owner will be charged a fee after the next call for service in which the alarm is found to be false in accordance with § 6-10 of this article. **[Amended 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]**

- C. A copy of this article will be given, by the Town of Plaistow Inspection Office, to any new business owners who apply to operate a business within the Town of Plaistow and to new residents seeking to build a new home.

§ 6-16. Waiver. [Amended 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]

The Chief of Police or the Fire Chief may waive the imposition of any fine outlined within this article for good and sufficient reason.

§ 6-17. Limitation of liability. [Amended 3-31-2003 by the Board of Selectmen]

The Police and Fire Departments of the Town of Plaistow will make every reasonable effort to ensure that all alarm activations received by the Department are given appropriate attention and are acted upon with dispatch. Nevertheless, the Police and Fire Departments and the Town will not be liable for any defects in the operation of alarm devices, for any failure or neglect to respond appropriately upon receipt of an alarm from such a defective system, nor for failure or neglect of any person in connection with the installation and/or operation of alarm systems or their components. In the event that these Departments find it necessary to act to prevent the sounding of false alarms, neither the Police or Fire Department nor the Town will be held liable for such action.