



422 CAPITOLA AVENUE
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Terry McManus
Chief of Police

Dear Capitola Business Owner,

On August 14, 2008 the Capitola City Council adopted a policy regarding the City's False Alarm Ordinance; this policy took effect on October 10, 2008. The policy integrates a fine system for commercial alarm business owners who fail to properly train employees on how to shut off their alarms or who fail to repair malfunctioning systems. The owner of a commercial security alarm system, who has more than two false alarms in a calendar year, will receive a fine of \$100.00 for the third and fourth false alarms, and on the fifth false alarm the commercial business will receive a fine of \$150.00. Once a commercial business reaches six false alarms, the fine will increase to \$200.00, for any subsequent false alarms that occur in the same calendar year.

A "false alarm" is defined as an alarm signal, either silent or audible, prompting any response by the Capitola Police Department, when an emergency situation for which the alarm system was intended does not exist. False alarm does not include alarm activations caused by tornadoes, earthquakes or other violent uncontrollable acts of nature. "Response" means an officer has been dispatched to the alarm call, whether or not the officer arrives on scene or is canceled while en route.

It is the City's hope that the implementation of the False Alarm Program and increased fine schedule will result in a reduced number of false alarm calls received annually, thus allowing Police Officers to spend more time on other Crime Prevention activity. Failure to register a commercial building alarm system is a violation of the Capitola Municipal Code and will result in a citation being issued and/or a fine. To register your alarm please fill out the enclosed application and return it to The Capitola Police Department. For any questions or concerns please contact False Alarm Program Coordinator, Denice Pearson at (831) 475-4242, ext 203. Businesses interested in appealing a false alarm fine, already discussed with the Program Coord Denice Pearson, should contact the Records Manager Tracie Hernandez at (831) 475-4242, ext 202.

Sincerely,

Tom Held
Police Captain