

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING FIRE TELEPHONE ALARM SYSTEMS
ORDAINED BY THE SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Section I. Fire Telephone Alarm Systems Ordinance for Scotland County is hereby as follows:

FIRE TELEPHONE ALARM SYSTEMS

Purpose and Definitions.

- (a) The purpose of this article is to reduce the number of false telephone dial alarms and thereby protect public safety by minimizing unnecessary use of the county's limited fire protection resources.

For the purpose of this article, the following definitions apply:

- (i) A “*fire telephone dial alarm device or system*” is defined as being or consisting of any mechanical, electrical or radio electronic device, apparatus or system made or designed to automatically actuate or call the county fire departments’ telephone or radio circuits or frequencies which uses a programmed verbal message or signal to accomplish this purpose.

The term “*user*” shall mean any owner or occupant of the premises upon which the fire telephone dial alarm device or system is located.

The term “*false alarm*” means activation of an alarm system eliciting a response by fire department personnel when a situation requiring such response does not exist. This includes accidental, avoidable and unnecessary alarm activation due to user error, equipment malfunction, improper or unsuited equipment.

False alarms.

- (1) All false **fire** alarms in excess of two (2) per calendar year will cause a service fee of \$200.00 to be imposed upon the user for each such false alarm in any given calendar year.
- (2) The fifth (5th) false **fire** alarm in a calendar year will result in the alarm user being notified by the respective fire chief that the alarm shall be deactivated and any monitoring and response to signals from the alarm system shall cease until service is reinstated in accordance with this section. The respective fire chief shall certify to the director of county tax collection the name of the user, the address from which alarms subject to penalty originated and the amount due the county on the last day of each month. The director of county tax collection shall cause billing to be sent and shall in turn notify the respective fire chief when any

account is more than thirty (30) days in arrears. Any account more than thirty (30) days in arrears shall be subjected to a termination of response. Any fire alarm system required by the state building code that is disconnected due to failure to pay service fees shall also subject the alarm user to further civil or criminal penalty.

- (3) Any fire telephone dial alarm device or system which has been deactivated pursuant to the terms of this section may be reinstated when the user has paid all past due fees and submits to the respective fire chief, proof that the said alarm system has been repaired to such an extent that it will minimize any false alarms. Proof of such repairs and the decision to reinstate the system shall be solely in the discretion of the respective fire chief.

Unlawful systems.

It shall be unlawful for any person to install, sell, lease, use or cause or permit to be installed, sold, leased, or used any fire telephone dial alarm device or system which operates through overhead or underground wires or by radio frequencies and which is designed, set or programmed to directly dial, actuate, call or in any other manner make direct contact with any telephone line or radio circuit or frequency of or assigned to the county fire department.

Permitted systems.

Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to prohibit the installation, sale, lease or use of any alarm device not designed or programmed to dial, actuate, call or in any other manner directly contact by telephone or radio circuit the county fire department on any telephone line or radio circuit or frequency of or assigned to the county fire department; provided, that the person installing such alarm system shall notify the respective county fire department of each installation within five (5) days thereof.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be in full force on and after the 1st day of November 2001.

ADOPTED this 10th day of September 2001.