

ALARMS

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT A FALSE FIRE ALARM?

NOTIFY your fire alarm or monitoring company if...

- you think your system is not working properly.
- you plan any remodeling near the system device, control panel or key pads.
- if you plan to sell your house.
- you are testing your system.

AND...

- Have your fire alarm company **check and service** your system regularly.
- **Replace** fire alarm system back-up batteries as directed by the system manufacturer. Request that your alarm company perform a dynamic battery test.
- **Upgrade** old fire alarm systems to currently available equipment.

FIRE ALARM CHECKLIST:

- Do you take care to eliminate possible causes of false fire alarms?
- Do you communicate with your alarm or monitoring company regularly, advising of problem areas or maintenance needs?
- Do you have your fire alarm system alarm company names and telephone numbers readily available?
- Do you have your fire alarm system inspected annually?

BE A GOOD CITIZEN—ACCIDENTAL AND NUISANCE ALARMS ARE PREVENTABLE. YOUR ALARM SYSTEM IS ONLY AS EFFECTIVE AS YOU MAKE IT. ALARM USERS MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE USE AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS TO HELP ENSURE PROMPT FIRE SERVICE RESPONSE WHEN A REAL EMERGENCY OCCURS.

For more information:
Contact your local fire department
or call MetroCall 311

Accidental Alarm Reduction Makes Sense



A partnership of:



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falseALARMS...

WHAT IS A FALSE FIRE ALARM?

A **false fire alarm** means the activation of any fire alarm system which results in a response by the fire department for an alarm activation not caused by heat, smoke or fire.

A **nuisance fire alarm** means the activation of any fire alarm system, which results in a response by the fire department, caused by mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, lack of proper maintenance or any other response for which the fire department personnel are unable to determine the apparent cause of the alarm activation.

COMMERCIAL AND MULTI-FAMILY FIRE ALARM SYSTEM USERS:

- ...have a higher rate of false fire alarms than single family homes.
- ...frequently create false fire alarms by failing to notify the monitoring company during testing or fire drills.
- ...must ensure the alarm company has updated contact or key holder information.

20% of alarm users cause 80% of false alarms

- ...must ensure all individuals with access to the fire alarm system are trained to use it.

BE A RESPONSIBLE ALARM-SYSTEM OWNER FROM THE START:

- Make sure that all users of your system know **how to operate and test** the system.
- Make sure your alarm system installation is in **compliance with** the requirements of building and fire codes.
- Be sure to let your alarm company know if you use the **internet for your phone service**. Your fire alarm system may not transmit unless adjustments are made.



COMMON CAUSES OF FALSE FIRE ALARMS:

- People with access who aren't familiar with your system.(workers, children, neighbors, cleaning personnel, real estate agents, etc.)
- Weak or depleted system batteries
- Weather-related conditions
- Improperly vented fireplaces or heating equipment
- Unvented cooking or burning food
- Construction dust
- Improper installation of the fire alarm system and/or improper device
- Steam from showers

- ...account for over **25%** of all fire runs across Metro Louisville.
- ...take fire personnel away from real emergencies. This diversion of public safety resources can impact the response to a real fire incident.
- ...can desensitize the community to actual fire incidents and lead to neighbors ignoring the alarm when it goes off.
- ...may make you reluctant to use your system, exposing your home or facility to fire and property damage.
- ...cost citizens time and money, with the average cost per run ranging from an estimated **\$150 — \$500**, costing the fire service and the community **\$1million — \$3million** annually.