



FARA

False Alarm Reduction Association

False Alarm Prevention Information For Alarm Users

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Apartment Alarm Systems

False Alarm Prevention and Security Tips for Apartment Dwellers

Many of today's apartment renters are using enhanced security systems to protect their dwellings from fires and intruders. In some apartment complexes, you may contract directly with the alarm company for your security system, but in other complexes, management may provide the security system for your unit.

Security systems that are not properly maintained and operated have the potential of triggering false alarms, which may result in the dispatch of armed police officers to your apartment. Some jurisdictions impose stiff fines for excessive false alarms. Here are some basic alarm user tips to help minimize false alarm activations.



[What you need to know about your Alarm System](#)

The more information you have on your alarm system and dispatch procedures, the less likely you are to have false alarms.

- Make sure that anyone who is allowed access to your alarm system is adequately trained in its operation, knows their passcode and understands how to cancel a false alarm activation with the alarm monitoring company.
- Make sure you understand your monitoring company dispatch procedures for burglar, panic and fire alarms.
- Know how to cancel a false alarm activation by contacting your alarm monitoring company. Have your password ready so the alarm monitoring company can identify you as an authorized user. It is different from your entry/exit code.
- If you need assistance on how to operate your alarm system, contact your alarm company or management company. They will be happy to show you how to use your system and will describe each zone and its location.
- DO NOT experiment with equipment without first notifying your alarm company to put your system in test mode. This will avoid unnecessary dispatches and false alarm fines.

[Prior to Arming Your Alarm System, Follow these False Alarm Prevention Tips](#)

- Lock all windows and doors.
- If your system utilizes motion detectors, keep all pets, balloons, fans, curtains, heaters and seasonal decorations away from all armed motion sensor areas.

[Alarm System Maintenance](#)

- Have your system serviced yearly to make sure it is functioning properly and to help avoid false activations.
- Regardless of whether you own or rent your apartment, if you feel your alarm system is not working properly, schedule service immediately.



- Low batteries, trouble signals and faulty zones could hinder the functioning of your alarm system and should be serviced or replaced. Otherwise, these problems could result in unnecessary dispatches and the imposition of false alarm fines.

[Alarm Permits, Account Information and Contacts](#)

- Ask your apartment manager or alarm company if you are required to register your alarm with your local jurisdiction and do so if required.
- If an alarm is triggered, your alarm monitoring company will need to contact you and the company will need your current phone numbers. Be sure to contact your alarm company and your jurisdiction with any changes to your account information or contact list.