



## Public Safety & False Alarms



**WHERE DO YOU STAND?  
HOW WE CAN HELP**

## FARA Can Help With Your False Alarm Issues

- ☒ Education
- ☒ Model Ordinances
- ☒ Code Reference
- ☒ Safety Brochures
- ☒ Public Information White Papers



FARA membership can assist you in reducing the number of false alarms by using model ordinances and networking with fire officials and alarm industry professionals.

False Alarm Reduction  
Association  
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The False Alarm Reduction Association is here to assist with all phases of false alarm issues. FARA has been a great force in assisting different municipalities with reducing false alarms, as well as setting up programs to deal with them.

FARA is an organization that shares information with a wide range of jurisdictions including model codes, education and white papers. With this sharing comes knowledge and understanding.

Let FARA add your voice to reduce the false alarm problems and raise the public's education level.

## Helpful websites

False Alarm Reduction Association (FARA)  
[www.faraonline.org](http://www.faraonline.org)

National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)  
[www.firemarshals.org](http://www.firemarshals.org)

International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)  
[www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org)

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)  
[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

All these organizations share a common goal,  
The Protection of Life and Property

## False Alarm Facts

### False Alarms

Account for nearly 2.9 million calls received by fire departments nationwide.

*NFPA, Fire Loss in the United States During 2020*



### False Alarms

Take fire personnel away from real emergencies. This diversion of public safety resources can impact the response to an actual emergency.



### False Alarms

Can desensitize the community to actual fire incidents and lead occupants and others to ignore the alarm when it goes off.

### False Alarms

Make owners reluctant to use their system, exposing their home, facility or business to fire and property damage.

## False Alarms Cost:

### Equipment

Equipment costs such as the number of units responding can have a negative economic impact when responding to a false alarm.

### Personnel

Frequent false alarms tend to make firefighters complacent. Complacency leads to carelessness. Carelessness injures firefighters. Don't let your firefighters down, minimize false alarms and keep them vigilant!

### Business

Business down time occurs while the cause of an alarm is being determined. False alarms cost money and provide NO benefit to the community.

### What is a false alarm?

The activation of any fire alarm system which results in a response by the fire department. False alarms can be caused by the negligence or intentional misuse of the fire alarm system by the owner, employees, agents, or any other activation of a fire alarm system not caused by heat, smoke or fire, exclusive of a nuisance fire alarm.

### Nuisance Fire Alarm

The activation of any fire alarm system, which results in a response by the fire department. Nuisance fire alarms can be caused by mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, lack of proper maintenance, or any other activation for which the fire department personnel are unable to determine the apparent cause.

## Public Safety Should Join FARA

1. **Use The Models** - Use the language from model ordinances on burglar, fire and smoke emitting devices.
2. **Use the Research** - Take advantage of the growing library of how to manuals that cover:
  - ☒ Program development
  - ☒ Alarm system equipment
  - ☒ Software & vendor selection
  - ☒ Consumer information
  - ☒ Alarm unit job descriptions
  - ☒ Calculating and reporting false alarms
  - ☒ Electronic filing of permits
  - ☒ Grants
  - ☒ How to run alarm schools
3. **Use the Bulletins** - Jump start your user education programs with one page bulletins that focus on common causes of false alarms.
4. **Use Our Assistance Requests** - We will email your fellow members to get the answer to your question.
5. **Connect with Industry** - We can help you begin a dialog with industry in your area.
6. **Develop or Refine Your Program** - Use the expertise from the entire membership and publication library.
7. **Avoid Mistakes** - Tap into others to help you avoid making the same mistakes they have made.
8. **Attend Training** - Delve into alarm management issues, meet with peers, and network with others at Annual Training Symposiums and Regional Training Sessions.