

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MAMMOTH LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MONO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ORDINANCE NO. # 09-01

An ordinance of the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District adopting a fee schedule that responds to repetitive nuisance alarms at a single address during a one year time period within in the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District.

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District does ordain as follows:

Problem:

Nuisance alarms are costly to the Fire District as personnel and equipment have a duty to respond to potential threats of life, property and the environment. Responses to nuisance alarms tie up resources, result in the expense of agency funds, and increase the liability and exposure due to additional miles driven.

The Fire District has taken an aggressive stance on the installation of fire alarm systems, including, but not limited to automatic alarm notification systems, smoke detectors, automatic sprinkler systems, and the like. These notification systems require routine maintenance in order to operate properly. Many times the proper maintenance of the systems is not available within Mono County and licensed contractors need to be brought in from surrounding areas of the state or region.

Definitions:

Nuisance Alarm: An alarm caused by mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, or lack of proper maintenance, or an alarm activated by a cause that cannot be determined.

False Alarm: The willful and knowing initiation or transmission of a signal, message, or other notification of an event of fire when no such danger exists.

Business/Homeowner Owner Responsibility:

Any person that owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains any building or structure within the Fire District has a responsibility to prevent nuisance and/or false alarms. The Fire District recognizes that mechanical systems can fail after initial installation and during the life of the system. Occasional visits to a place of business or residence are a cost of requiring such systems in structures. But numerous return responses to deal with nuisance alarms are unacceptable and results in increase costs and liability. To encourage the proper care of alarm systems, the Fire District shall impose the following fee schedule for responses to the same address during a single year:

- First Response.....no cost
- Second Response.....no cost
- Third Response.....\$250.00
- Fourth Response.....\$350.00
- Fifth Response and thereafter.....\$500.00

Appeal Rights:

Any person that wishes to contest a fine may do so by notifying the Fire Chief in writing within 10 days of receiving the citation. This person shall include the reasons for the challenge. If the person contesting the fine does not find satisfaction with the Fire Chief they can further appeal to the Board of Fire Commissioners by notifying the Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners within 10 days following the notification of judgment by the Fire Chief.

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSTAIN:
- ABSENT:

Chairman,
Board of Fire Commissioners

Attest, Brent Harper
Fire Chief