



Security Alarm System Bylaw Changes

June 2024



SUMMARY OF NEW FEE SCHEDULE

| NEW SECURITY ALARMS SYSTEM *biennial (every two years) | BIENNIAL RENEWAL FEE | FALSE ALARM FEE *resets annually | FALSE HOLD-UP DURESS OR PANIC ALARM FEE *resets annually |
|---|----------------------|--|--|
|  Residential - \$40 | Residential - \$30 | Residential first alarm - no charge Second false alarm - \$100 Third false alarm - \$200 Fourth and subsequent false alarms - \$300 | First alarm - \$100 Second alarm - \$200 Third alarm - \$400 Fourth and subsequent false alarms - \$600 |
|  Commercial - \$80 | Commercial - \$60 | Commercial first alarm - no charge Second false alarm - \$200 Third false alarm - \$400 Fourth false alarm - \$600 | First alarm - \$200 Second alarm - \$400 Third alarm - \$800 Fourth and subsequent false alarms - \$1,200 |

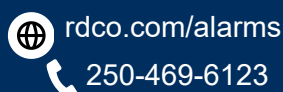
Why did the bylaw change?

The bylaw has not been updated since 2005, and since that time, the number of alarm systems has increased in homes and businesses. In 2023, 72% of all security alarm calls to the RCMP were false alarm calls, totalling more than 300 RCMP hours spent responding to reported alarm request. The response to false alarms puts a significant strain on protective services and takes away capacity to attend high-priority policing needs.

How to apply

Apply online or in-person for your permit for a home or business alarm system.

For more information:



FAST FACTS

- All security systems in the Central Okanagan must be registered on a biennial basis (every two years), whether the alarm system is self-monitored or monitored by a security company.
- The registration period has been changed to two every two years instead of annually.
- You must keep information on your alarm permit current, which can be easily updated or cancelled online at rdco.com/alarms.
- False alarm counts, including false hold-up duress or panic alarm counts, will reset on the annual registration anniversary date.
- If the RCMP receives reported alarm request to an alarm at unregistered properties, you will receive a false alarm fee invoice for RDCO Security Alarm Systems Bylaw No. 1546.
- The reduction of false alarms benefits everyone by ensuring that emergency resources are available for critical situations.
- Register your alarm company phone number as your favourite so you recognize the number when they call.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ?

Q: Why do I need to have a permit for my security alarm?

A: You are helping to manage RCMP resources when you register your alarm through the alarm permit process. When permit holders are held accountable for their alarms, the number of false alarms decreases, leading to more effective management of resources for community safety.

Q: What has changed with the new bylaw?

A: A new permit costs \$40 for residential and \$80 for commercial permits. Biennial renewals are \$30 for residential and \$60 for commercial.

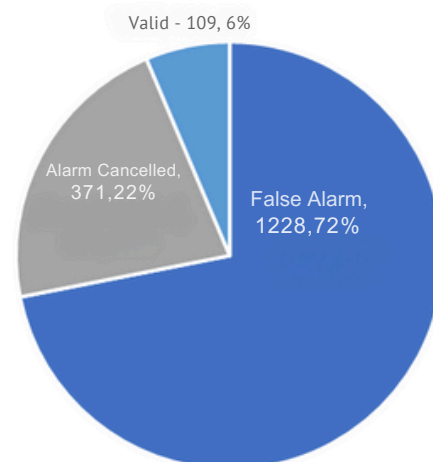
Q: What is considered a False Alarm?

A: A false alarm is the activation of the security alarm system that results in a RCMP response when there has not been a crime or attempted crime.

Q: Can I transfer my security alarm permit to another person, property or business?

A: No, security alarm permits are not transferable, they are attached to a location and permit holder.

1708 RCMP CALL OUTS IN 2023



Tips to Prevent False Alarms

#1

Ensure all your doors and windows are locked when you leave your home or business.

#2

Know the procedures on how to cancel an alarm dispatch request.

#3

Thoroughly train everyone who will use the security system.

#5

Update your contact information with your security provider. For businesses, this includes past employees.

#6

Notify your alarm company when testing and if you list your home for sale, renovate or go on vacation.