

Chapter 37**ALARM SYSTEMS**

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Upper St. Clair 12-1-75 as Ord. No. 604. Sections 37.9.1 and 37.11 amended at time of adoption of Code; see Ch. 1, Adoption of Township Code. Other amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Definitions and rules of interpretation - Ch. 3.

Fire prevention - See Ch. 61.

§ 37.1. **Definitions.**¹

The following terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings:

ALARM AGENT - Any firm, corporation or person who or which is employed by any business, firm, corporation or other commercial entity which conducts the business of

¹ Editor's Note: Definitions of the terms "person" and "township" were omitted during codification as being superseded by Ch. 3, Definitions: Rules of Interpretation.

owning, operating, maintaining, installing, leasing or selling automatic protection devices and whose duties include any of the following: selling, maintaining, leasing, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving or installing in or on any building, place or premises any automatic protection device, as defined in this chapter, within the township.

ANSWERING SERVICE - Any service whereby trained employees in attendance at all times receive prerecorded voice messages from automatic protection devices reporting an emergency at a stated location, which employees have the duty to immediately relay by live voice any such emergency message over a designated or direct trunkline to the communication center.

AUDIBLE ALARM - Any device, bell, horn or siren which is attached to the interior or exterior of a building and emits a warning signal audible outside the building, which signal is designed to attract attention when activated by an intrusion or other emergency requiring police or service response.

AUTOMATIC PROTECTION DEVICE [hereinafter referred to as "APD (s)"] - Any electrically operated instrument composed of sensory apparatus and related hardware which automatically transmits a prerecorded voice or other alarm signal over regular telephone line, by direct or indirect connection to the communication center, upon receipt of a stimulus from a sensory apparatus that has detected a physical force or condition inherently characteristic of a fire or intrusion, or other emergency. **[Amended 12-7-92 by Ord. No. 1561]**

CENTRAL STATION PROTECTIVE SYSTEM - Any protective system or group of such systems operated privately for customers by an alarm agent; a firm or a corporation which maintains supervisors and accepts recorded messages from APD's at a central station having trained operators and guards in attendance at all times who have the duty to take appropriate action upon receipt of a signal or message, including the relaying of messages by designated or direct trunkline to the communication center.

COMMUNICATION CENTER - The communication room in the Police Department and other rooms which house auxiliary communication equipment.

DESIGNATED TRUNKLINE - A telephone line leading into the communication center that is for the primary purpose of handling emergency messages on a person-to-person basis.

DIRECT TRUNKLINE - A nonlisted, directly connected telephone line, leading from an intermediary to the communication center, which is for the primary purpose of handling alarm messages on a person-to-person basis.

FALSE ALARM - Any signal activated by an APD, as an audible alarm or any other kind of direct or indirect signal given the communication center, which is not the result of an intrusion, fire, or other emergency. **[Amended 12-7-92 by Ord. No. 1561]**

INTERMEDIARY - A central station protective system or an answering service, as herein defined.

KEY - To use a telephone line and equipment for transmitting a message, either directly or indirectly, from an APD.

POLICE OR FIRE DEPARTMENT - The Police Department or Fire Department of the township.

PRIMARY TRUNKLINE - A telephone line leading into the communication center which is for the purpose of handling emergency calls on a person-to-person basis and which is identified by a specific listing among the white pages in the telephone directory issued by the Bell Telephone Company.

SECONDARY TRUNKLINE - A telephone line leading into the communication center which is for the purpose of handling administrative and other calls on a person-to-person basis and which is identified by a specific listing among the white pages in the telephone directory issued by the Bell Telephone Company.

SUBSCRIBER - A person who has an APD installed on realty in which the person has an interest or who is applying for the installation of an APD.

§ 37.2. Permit required for automatic protection device.

It shall be unlawful to operate or maintain an APD in the Township unless the subscriber shall file an application with the Township for an annual APD permit and receive an annual permit from the Township in accordance with this Chapter. An APD permit expires on December 31 and may be renewed within the renewal period established by the Rules and Regulations promulgated by the Township Manager. **[Amended 4-5-93 by Ord. No. 1578]**

§ 37.3. Procedure for issuance of permit.

37.3.1. Each subscriber shall file an application for operation of an Automatic Protection Device with the Township. **[Amended 6-1-92 by Ord. No. 1542]**

37.3.2. Each subscriber shall enter into an agreement with the township whereby the township would be rendered harmless for any damage or breakage caused by the township while making a forced entry to answer an APD alarm whether a false alarm or an authentic alarm.

37.3.3. The APD must meet all specifications set forth in § 37.6. of this chapter.

§ 37.4. Time extension for permit applications for existing installations.

Subscribers with APD's installed prior to the effective date hereof shall have ninety (90) days henceforth to have the APDs altered so as to meet specifications set forth in § 37.6 of this chapter.

§ 37.5. Permit fees. [Amended 4-4-83 by Ord. No. 1026]

Permit fees for new subscribers or subscribers granted an extension for a permit application, as set forth in § 37.4. of this chapter, shall be as provided in Ch. 57, Fees.

§ 37.6. Standards. [Amended 4-5-93 by Ord. No. 1578]

All APD's shall meet minimum standards, as follows:

37.6.1. Audible alarms must be equipped with a timing mechanism, which will disengage the audible alarm after a maximum period of five (5) minutes. Fire alarms shall be arranged to sound until manually reset by the Fire Department. Fire alarms are not allowed to be on a timing mechanism to disengage the audible alarm. **[Amended 12-7-92 by Ord. No. 1561]**

37.6.2. No APD may be keyed to a primary or secondary trunkline.

37.6.3. APD's which transmit recorded messages directly to the communication center must be keyed to a direct trunkline.

37.6.4. APD's keyed to an intermediary shall relay messages to the communication center over a direct trunkline.

37.6.5. The type and content of recorded messages must be intelligible and in a format approved prior to installation by the Police Department as appropriate for the type of emergency.

37.6.6. No more than one (1) call shall be made over a direct trunkline to the communication center as a result of a single activation of the APD.

37.6.7. The time for transmitting each recorded message shall not exceed fifteen (15) seconds.

37.6.8. Recorded messages may be repeated during one (1) call, but the interval between each recorded message shall not be less than eight (8) nor more than twelve (12) seconds.

37.6.9. The sensory mechanism used in connection with an APD must be adjusted to suppress false indications of fire or intrusion, or other emergency, so that the device will not be actuated by impulses due to fleeting pressure changes in water pipes, short flashes of light, the rattling or vibrating of doors and windows, vibrations to the premises caused by the passing of

vehicles or any other force not related to genuine alarms. **[Amended 12-7-92 by Ord. No. 1561]**

37.6.10. Any APD which transmits a signal or message to the communication center (other than a recorded or live voice message) must be relayed to an alarm receiver panel as designated by the township.

37.6.11. All components comprising an APD must be maintained by the owner or lessee in good repair to assure maximum reliability of operation.

§ 37.7. Enforcement and administration.

The enforcement and administration of this chapter shall be the functions of the township and shall include the following:

37.7.1. Authority to accept or reject a permit application or revoke a permit because of a misrepresentation or false statement contained in any application for a permit, failure to correct any deficiencies in equipment or operation of an APD after receipt of due notice from the township or failure to meet other conditions and specifications of this chapter.

37.7.2. Authority to order the disconnection of an Automatic Protection Device or the discontinuation of calls from an Automatic Protection Device until such device is made to comply with operational standards set forth in §37.6, but only when failure to comply with said standards is evidenced by messages which burden the Township with false alarms; when the subscriber has failed to obtain required permits to operate and maintain an Automatic Protection Device or when the subscriber has failed to pay the charges or fines required under this Chapter. **[Amended 6-1-92 by Ord. No. 1542; Amended 4-5-93 by Ord. No. 1578]**

37.7.3. Authority, at reasonable times and upon written notice, to enter upon any premises within the township to inspect the installation and operation of an APD, for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this chapter.

37.7.4. The Township Manager or his designated representative is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to enforce and administer the provisions of this Chapter. **[Added 4-5-93 by Ord. No. 1578]**

§ 37.8. Test of automatic protection device.

No person shall conduct or test any demonstration of an APD without first obtaining permission from the township. Where the equipment is keyed through an intermediary, no such permission is necessary unless the alarm or signal is to be relayed to the communication center.

§ 37.9. False alarms.

37.9.1. Intentional false alarms. Any subscriber or person found guilty of causing a false alarm from any APD shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter 5, Enforcement of Ordinances; Penalties. **[Amended 8-2-76 by Ord. No. 632]**

37.9.2. Accidental false alarms. Any person, subscriber or alarm agent who causes an accidental false alarm for any reason shall pay to the township a charge for each and every false alarm to which the Police Department and/or Fire Department responds in each calendar year, as provided in Ch. 57, Fees. **[Amended 4-4-83 by Ord. No. 1026]**

§ 37.10. Operation and maintenance of devices. [Amended 4-5-93 by Ord. No. 1578]

The operation and maintenance of APDs permitted by this chapter include connection to the communication center. The owner of an APD shall be responsible for the maintenance and service of his or its APD equipment and shall be responsible for all malfunctions of his or its equipment.

§ 37.11. Violations and penalties. [Amended 8-2-76 by Ord. No. 632]

Any person who does not pay any charge or fee established in this chapter, or who violates any provision of this chapter, shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter 5, Enforcement of Ordinances; Penalties. A separate offense shall be deemed committed upon each day during which a violation occurs or is committed.