

**TOWNSHIP OF ELSINBORO
COUNTY OF SALEM**

**ORDINANCE 2021-07
INSTITUTING A CODE FOR FALSE ALARM SYSTEMS WITHIN THE
TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Elsinboro recognizes the importance of alarm systems to protect the residents of the Township of Elsinboro.

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Elsinboro also recognizes the importance of the resources that are expended when emergency services must repeatedly respond to emergency alarms within the Township that are either accidentally or falsely set.

WHEREAS, in order to protect the Township's emergency service resources, the Township Committee of the Township of Elsinboro believes it is in the best interest of the Township and its residents to provide standards, procedures, and regulations for various types of burglar, fire, and private alarm systems or warning devices which require a response by the police department, fire department, or other Township agencies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Elsinboro, hereby enacts this ordinance regarding false alarms as follows:

ALARM SYSTEMS

ARTICLE I: Key Boxes

- A. Key boxes required. All properties within the Township of Elsinboro having an automatic fire alarm system or a fire sprinkler system shall be equipped with a key box. Residential property shall be exempt from this requirement.

- B. Key box type. The key box shall be of DL type and approved by the Elsinboro Township Fire Official. The key box shall be installed in a location approved by the Elsinboro Township Fire Official.

C. Key box contents. The key boxes shall contain the following:

- (1) Keys to locked points of egress, whether on the interior or exterior of such buildings.
- (2) Keys to locked mechanical equipment rooms.
- (3) Keys to the locked electrical rooms.
- (4) Keys to elevator controls.
- (5) Keys to other areas as directed by the Township Fire Official.

D. Time of compliance. All existing buildings shall comply within 12 months of the effective date of this article. Existing structures that have already installed key boxes may keep them in their current location. All newly constructed buildings not yet occupied, or buildings currently under construction, shall comply immediately.

E. Penalties. Any building owner violating this article after notice from the Elsinboro Township Fire Official shall be subject to a fine of \$100.

ARTICLE II: False Alarms

A. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ACT OF GOD — An electrical storm, lightning or other power fluctuation or power surge beyond the control of the alarm system owner.

AUTOMATIC ALARM DEVICE — Any alarm system which communicates or transmits alarms or prerecorded messages of fire, smoke, flood or other peril as a result of the activation of the alarm system.

FALSE ALARM — Any erroneous or unfounded communication or sound, whether caused by the malfunction of an automatic alarm device, power failure or inadvertence, negligence or intentional or unintentional act of any person, firm or corporation, either directly or indirectly, to a commercial alarm service or to any person causing the communication of the peril to the Elsinboro Township Fire Company.

PERSON — Any person, firm, partnership or corporation.

PROPERTY OWNER — Any individual, entity, corporation, tenant or other person having a legal interest in a property having an alarm system.

- B. False alarms unlawful. It is unlawful for a property owner to have more than five false alarms at any one location in any calendar year.
- C. Investigation; recordkeeping. Any person having knowledge of an alarm activation shall immediately notify the Township of Elsinboro emergency response agency Elsinboro Township Fire Company. The Fire Department shall cause an investigation to be made of all alarm activations and a record of same shall be kept on file.
- D. Prevention. It shall be the responsibility of all persons that maintain alarms systems within the Township to prevent the transmission of false alarms through training programs, periodic inspection and maintenance of the alarm system.
- E. Violations and penalties. For all false fire alarms, the Elsinboro Township Fire Official or Fire Department representative will issue a false fire alarm warning form for all false alarms to the person on location representing the business. There shall be a fine as indicated below to be paid by the owner of the business located upon the premises where the alarm is situated beginning with the sixth and each subsequent false alarm thereafter in any calendar year.
- F. Record keeping. A record of same shall be kept on file for all fire alarms in the Office of the Bureau of Fire Prevention and also on file with the Elsinboro Township Fire Company.
- G. Exceptions. The provisions of this article shall not apply to the general alerting alarms that may be used by fire companies, ambulance squads or other municipal agencies to summon response of their members. The provisions of this article shall not apply to alarm systems that are affixed to motor vehicles. For false alarms the Elsinboro Township Fire Official or the Elsinboro Township Fire Company shall issue a notice of violation with order to pay penalty for the sixth fire alarm, as per the penalties schedule below.

H. Written Complaints. Failure to pay a fire alarm penalty will result in a written complaint from the Elsinboro Township Fire Official or Elsinboro Township Fire Company to the Lower Alloways Creek Municipal Court for collection of penalties.

I. Exceptions

Alarm activations, upon investigation of the Elsinboro Township Fire Official and/or Elsinboro Fire Company, determined to be caused by an act of God shall not be penalized per the violation schedule.

J. Violation and penalties for fire alarms.

- (1) First through fifth offense: no fine.
- (2) On the sixth alarm a penalty of \$250.
- (3) On the seventh alarm a penalty of \$300.
- (4) On the eighth alarm a penalty of \$400.
- (5) On the ninth alarm a penalty of \$500.
- (6) Any alarm thereafter a penalty of \$500.

K. All fees collected for penalties shall be added to the budget of the Elsinboro Fire Company.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the foregoing proposed Ordinance No. 2021-07 was introduced and passed on first reading by the Township Committee of the Township of Elsinboro, County of Salem, State of New Jersey, at a regular meeting held on August 2, 2021. A second reading and public hearing on the foregoing Ordinance will be conducted by the Township Committee at a regular meeting pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b) to be held on September 7, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., at the Elsinboro Township Municipal Building, 619 Salem Ft. Elfsborg Road, Elsinboro, New Jersey 08079, after which the Ordinance will be considered for final passage.

ATTEST:

Marty R. Uzdanovics, Township Clerk

Sean Elwell, Mayor

DATE: _____