



Fire Alarm Ordinance

1. Purpose

Pursuant to RSA 154:18 and RSA 31:9, the purpose of this Ordinance is to encourage fire alarm users by private homeowners and businesses in Town to assume increased responsibility for maintaining the mechanical reliability and the proper use of their alarm systems, to prevent unnecessary fire emergency response to false alarms and thereby to protect the emergency response capability of the Town from misuse.

2. Definition

A "False Alarm" is defined as: "An alarm signal, eliciting a response by fire personnel when a situation requiring a response does not in fact exist, but does not include an alarm signal caused by violent conditions of nature or other extraordinary circumstances not reasonably subject to control by the alarm business operator or alarm user."

3. Fines for False Alarms

Any property owner having a fire alarm system on their premises installed to warn occupants of fire, which causes a response by the Canterbury Fire Department, shall pay the town a charge for false alarms to which the Fire Department responds to in each calendar year. All monitored alarm systems that the Fire Department responds to are allowed five false responses per calendar year at no charge.

Fines will be assessed for excessive false alarms during any calendar year as follows:

- A. For the sixth through tenth false fire alarms, the fine shall be in the amount of \$250 per false alarm.
- B. For the eleventh and all subsequent false fire alarms, the fine shall be in the amount of \$500 per false alarm.

The Fire Chief has the right to waive any or all false alarm assessments if he or she determines it to be in the best interest of the Town of Canterbury.

4. Notice and Hearing Procedure

The alarm owner or occupant of a building serviced by an alarm will be notified of a false alarm either in person by responding fire personnel, written notice, or regular mail.

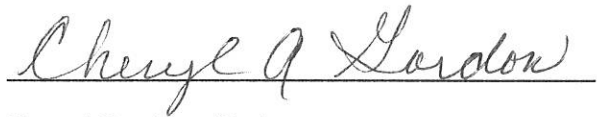
The alarm user has the right to a hearing to appeal any notice of false alarm. A hearing must be requested within 10 days of the notice. Failure to contest the fine in the required time period results in a conclusive presumption that the alarm was false and the fine valid. The hearing shall be before the Fire Chief. The alarm user shall have the right to present written and oral evidence subject to the right of cross-examination. The Chief will arbitrate whether or not the alarms are false and take appropriate.

5. Use of Revenues

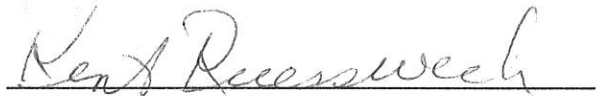
All revenues generated from this chapter will go to the general fund of the Town of Canterbury.

February 5, 2024

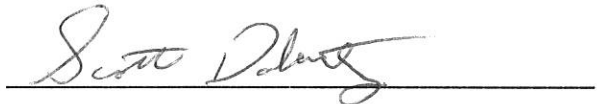
Canterbury Board of Selectmen,



Cheryl Gordon, Chair



Kent Ruesswick



Scott Doherty