

Helpful Hints to Avoid False Alarms

Over the past few years, more residents and businesses have been protecting their homes and property from fire damage. We are proud that everyone is taking a more active role in protecting themselves and their community. Unfortunately, the lack of alarm system education and system misuse are having a significant impact upon our Protective Service Departments.

Each year, the Fire Department responds to almost 1,000 false alarms. More than half are system malfunctions.

Until informed otherwise, fire trucks respond to all false alarms as if they were real fires; using their lights and siren, causing disruptions in traffic and dangerous conditions on the roadway. Also, when a fire truck responds to a false alarm that vehicle and crew are not available to handle real emergencies. And, the average cost for the Fire Department to respond to a single false alarm is over \$300.

The annual cost for the City is about \$300,000.

There have been an extraordinary number of false alarms in Plantation. The City is asking its residents and businesses to help reduce this problem by following these helpful hints to avoid false alarms. Together, we will provide for a better and safer community.

Commercial & Multi-Family Complexes

1. Have your fire alarm system serviced once a year by a State of Florida Licensed Fire Alarm Technician.
2. Have all detectors cleaned and re-sensitized every two (2) years.
3. Provide U.L. rated pull station covers.
4. Have duct detectors send a supervisory message rather than sound the general fire alarm throughout the building.
5. Keep an alarm service record book and plans of the system.
6. Do not reset the fire alarm system. Let the Fire Department do this operation.
7. Cover smoke detectors when doing any building repairs or major cleaning.
8. Put your fire alarm in test mode when doing repairs.
9. Clean out air conditioning ducts, etc.

Single Family Fire Alarm System

1. Have your fire alarm system serviced annually.
2. Have smoke detectors cleaned and re-sensitized annually.
3. Do not place smoke detectors close to cooking and showering areas.
4. Change the battery annually.
5. Cover smoke detectors during construction, building repairs and major cleaning.
6. Write down what caused the false alarm. Then notify the alarm company for any necessary repairs.