



## Yuba County Sheriff's Department NOTICE TO ALARM HOLDERS

In 1989, Yuba County passed an ordinance to regulate alarms and establish a violation for repeated false alarms within the County. Among the provisions contained in the ordinance is the requirement that residents and business owners obtain a permit from the Sheriff's Office to install, connect, operate or maintain, or cause to be installed, connected, operated or maintained, an alarm system upon any property of which such person is in possession. Failure to obtain a permit is a violation of the ordinance. Until now, the ordinance has not been enforced. Effective July 1, 2012, the ordinance will be enforced due to the reasons stated below.

Over the past five years, alarm calls have represented 5 to 6 percent of all calls for service the Sheriff's Office receives. We have received an average of 1850 alarm calls per year and on average 98.9 percent of the alarm calls are false alarms. Each false alarm call requires approximately 20 minutes of deputy time, usually for two deputies. Over the course of one year, that amounts to approximately 1300 hours of unnecessary time spent by the deputies. This does not include the time spent by dispatchers and other less tangible effects such as lost opportunity when deputies are unavailable to work on actual crime problems.

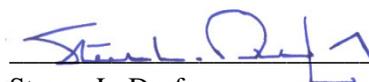
The highlights of the ordinance are the requirement for the permit which are obtained by completing an application and forwarding it to the Sheriff's Department with a fee of \$43.50 for a 3-year permit. Permits can be suspended for repeated false alarms. Repeated is defined as 3 false alarms in a 30 day period or 5 false alarms in a 90 day period or 6 false alarms in a 180 day period. Alarms can be revoked for two suspensions in a 12 month period. There is a hearing process and false alarm determinations can be disputed. All current users of alarm systems should carefully review the ordinance which can be found on the Internet at:

[http://library.municode.com/HTML/14654/level2/TITVIIIIPUPESA\\_CH8.90BUROALSY.html](http://library.municode.com/HTML/14654/level2/TITVIIIIPUPESA_CH8.90BUROALSY.html).

While we view alarms as a valuable tool in the prevention of crime and preservation of the health and safety of the citizens of Yuba County, false alarms constitute a danger to first responders and to the public traveling the highways of the County during those responses. False alarms are a drain on law enforcement resources which are often diverted from other tasks to respond.

It is hoped that through compliance with this ordinance, the number of false alarms will be reduced, thereby bringing an increased level of safety to the citizens of the County not only through the reduction in responses by emergency units to these calls, but also through the allocation of these resources to other crime prevention and reduction activities.

Sincerely,

 4/30/12

Steven L. Durfor  
Sheriff-Coroner