General Information

The City of Calabasas, the Calabasas Public Safety Commission and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Malibu/Lost Hills Station, developed this brochure to promote public awareness regarding False Alarms. It is our sincere desire to work with the public to reduce false alarms to an acceptable level. This reduction in false alarms allows your law enforcement and security officers to more effectively serve and protect you. Your comments and cooperation are essential to the success of this program and we welcome your involvement. Working together, we will continue to have a safe and secure place to live.

Although a permit is not required for alarm systems in the City of Calabasas, you will be assessed a fine if your alarm system generates excessive false alarms. If you have more than two false alarms within a calendar year, it can cost you $50.00 for the third false alarm and $75.00 for the fourth and each subsequent false alarm.

If you have any questions about the City of Calabasas Alarm System Ordinance, call Debbie Larson, Public Safety Coordinator at (818) 224-1620.

CITY *of* CALABASAS

FALSE ALARMS

What You Should Know!

City of Calabasas

Calabasas Public Safety Commission

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Malibu/Lost Hills Station

False Alarms
The Big Problem

Alarms were originally designed to protect lives and property. Properly installed, used and maintained, alarms are a real asset. When misused, they become a liability. Each year false alarms cost all of us millions of dollars and thousands of wasted man hours. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Lost Hills Station, as well as the security companies, must spend a significant amount of time and money reacting to false alarms. You, as the system user, also experience the inconvenience of false alarms and the assessment of fines. False alarms must concern each of us. They do not reduce crime and can cause a certain level of complacency among all concerned parties. They also increase the liability and endanger the safety and welfare of the public, responsible parties and responding agencies. The purpose of this brochure is to help all of us understand what causes a majority of the false alarms at a time when the false alarms continue to increase, and to provide a way to reduce false alarm activity.

What is a false alarm?

A False Alarm is any alarm caused by human error or equipment problems requiring police response, with no evidence of an actual crime having been committed.

What are the most frequent human errors that cause False Alarms?

<u>Residential</u>

- Use of incorrect key pad codes.
- Failure to train other authorized users (i.e. sitters, relatives, children, visitors, etc.)
- Failure to secure doors and windows before turning on the alarm.

<u>Commercial</u>

- Use of incorrect key pad codes.
- Failure to train other authorized users (i.e. employees, janitors, delivery personnel, etc.)
- Failure to notify monitoring facility of unscheduled openings or closings (for businesses using set schedules.)
- Failure to update authorized personnel list with monitoring facility.
- Failure to secure doors and windows before turning on alarm.

What are the most frequent equipment problems that cause False Alarms?

- Improper application or installation of interior motion detectors.
- Improper application or installation of outdoor beams.
- Improper charging or checking of batteries.
- Faulty equipment (i.e. panels, detectors, key pads, etc.)

What can you do to reduce False Alarms?

- Make sure everyone is familiar with alarm system operations.
- Secure doors and windows before turning on system.
- Beware of changes in the environment (i.e. new animals, design changes, seasonal decorations, plants, etc.)
- Notify monitoring facility of any and all changes (i.e. house guests, name changes, new employees, termination of employees, etc.)
- Equipment should be routinely inspected and maintained by qualified personnel.