

Security alarm system means any mechanical, electrical or radio-controlled device which is designed to be used for the detection of any unauthorized entry into a building, structure or facility, or for altering others of the commission of an unlawful act within a building, structure or facility or both, which emits a sound or transmits a signal or message when activated.

Section 3: Alarm permit.

(a) Permit required. No person shall use an alarm system without first obtaining a permit for such alarm system from the Town. Each alarm permit shall be assigned a unique permit number, and the user may be required to provide the permit number along with the address to facilitate law enforcement dispatch.

(b) Application. The permit shall be requested on an application form provided by the Town. An alarm user has the duty to obtain an application form from the Town.

(c) Transfer of possession. When the possession of the premises at which an alarm system is maintained is transferred, the person (user) obtaining possession of the property shall file an application for an alarm permit within thirty (30) days of obtaining possession of the property. Alarm permits are not transferable.

(d) Reporting updated information. Whenever the information provided on the alarm permit application changes, the alarm user shall provide correct information to the Town within thirty (30) days of the change. In addition, each year after the issuance of the permit, permit holders will receive from the Town a form requesting updated information. The permit holder shall complete and return this form to the Town when any of the requested information has changed; failure to comply will constitute a violation and may result in a fine of up to \$500.00 plus court assessments.

(e) Multiple alarm systems. If an alarm user has one or more alarm systems protecting two (2) or more separate structures having different addresses and/or tenants, a separate permit shall be required for each structure and/or tenant.

Section 4: Duty of owner, occupant, or lessee of premises.

(a) Newly installed or substantially modified systems shall be allowed to operate for a period of 30 days from the date of installation or modification without penalty for false alarms, provided the Town of Pine Ridge is notified of the installation or the modification in advance of same.

(b) Owners or lessees of existing alarm systems shall have 30 days from installation or modification to comply with the above notice requirements.

- (c) Prior to any testing of any alarm system, the owner or lessees shall notify law enforcement and public safety.
- (d) Owners or lessees of any alarm system shall provide response to the alarm location, when requested, in order to reset or disable the alarm system within thirty minutes of notification. Failure to provide such response shall result in a charge of \$50.00 for each occurrence. Repeated failure to provide a response shall result in disconnection of the alarm system and no response from either law enforcement or public safety as further provided herein unless such response is otherwise required by law.
- (e) The owner or lessee of every place of business which utilizes an alarm system shall provide, visible from the exterior of such business and adjacent to the main entrance, a minimum of three current working telephone numbers of persons to be notified in case of emergency or in lieu thereof have on file with the alarm monitoring company for the alarm system, three correct working telephone numbers of persons to be notified in a case of emergency.
- (f) Maintain the premises and the alarm system in a method that will reduce or eliminate false alarms.
- (g) Provide the alarm company the permit number. The number should be provided to the communications center by the alarm company to facilitate dispatch.

Section 5: Requirements of alarm monitoring agency.

- (a) All alarm monitoring agencies are required to furnish the responding department with the following information when dispatching or reporting an alarm:
- (1) Give the name of the monitoring agency;
 - (2) Give the name or identification number of the reporting operator;
 - (3) Give a call back telephone number of the monitoring agency;
 - (4) Give the name of business or homeowner and address of the activated alarm;
 - (5) If a call has been made to a key holder, the key holder's name and estimated time of arrival; and
 - (6) Provide alarm permit number. Any other information that may be necessary or required by the individual responding agencies.
 - (7) Communicate a cancellation to the responding department as soon as possible following a determination that response is unnecessary.
- (b) It shall be the duty of all alarm businesses to furnish at their expense the most current copy of the Town of Pine Ridge Alarm Ordinance to their existing customers within 60 days of adoption of ordinance and immediately to all new alarm users upon adoption of this ordinance.

Section 6: Fees charges; alarm malfunctions and false alarms.

(a) False alarm fee/failure to register. No fee shall be assessed for the first two false alarms at the same premises responded to by law enforcement or public safety during each calendar year. Thereafter, the following fees shall be paid by the owner for each false alarm at the same premises during such calendar year.

Number of false alarm	Fee per false alarm
Third	\$50.00
Fourth	\$75.00
Fifth	\$100.00
Sixth – Ninth	\$150.00
Tenth and above	\$300.00
Failure to register	\$100.00

(b) It is the responsibility of each alarm owner to monitor the occurrences of false alarms on it premises. After the false alarm coordinator has recorded two false alarm occurrences within a calendar year for a given alarm user, the false alarm coordinator shall notify the alarm user, in writing, by first class mail or hand delivery, that additional alarm occurrences will result in the imposition of fees in accordance with the above fee schedule. Failure to receive such notification does not waive or nullify any fees. Such fees will be issued by Uniform Traffic Ticket for all violations of this Town Code by the Pine Ridge Police Department.

(c) Should any fee assessed pursuant to this chapter remain unpaid by the appointed Municipal Court date, the owner shall be found guilty in their absence. Unpaid Town Ordinances may result in the issuance of a bench warrant. The owner shall be responsible for any legal fees or costs incurred by the Town of Pine Ridge in enforcement of this chapter.

(d) If cancellation occurs from the alarm monitoring company when law enforcement/fire personnel has already been dispatched and in route to the scene, this shall be recorded as a false alarm.

Section 7: Disconnection of alarm system.

(a) Except for premises protected by an alarm system as required by law, the police department or public safety is authorized to order the disconnection or deactivation of

any alarm system by written notice to the owner of the premises wherein an alarm system is installed for any of the following reasons:

- (1) Failure to make all requirements or pay the fees provided for in this chapter within 120 days of the charging of the fees; or
 - (2) A false alarm at a premises for which a fee is charged pursuant to this chapter as a result of the failure of the owner to take corrective action to eliminate the cause of the false alarm; or
 - (3) The failure of a person notified pursuant to this chapter to appear within one hour after being notified to respond, if such failure to timely appear occurs four or more times within a calendar year.
- (b) The written notice issued by the Pine Ridge Police Department or public safety to disconnect or deactivate shall be mailed to the owner and shall specify the date on which the owner shall be required to disconnect or deactivate the alarm system, which date shall be at least 15 days following the date of the notice. The owner may appeal the order to disconnect pursuant to section seven.
- (c) The Pine Ridge Police Department may suspend response to any alarm received from a location which has an order to disconnect or deactivate its alarm system as described herein unless there is a separate indication that a crime is in progress.

Section 8: Appeal

- (a) The town administrator or designee will serve as hearing officer for appeals from owners that have been notified to disconnect or deactivate an alarm system. If the town administrator elects a designee to serve as hearing officer, that designee shall not be with the Pine Ridge police or public safety departments.
- (b) An appeal must be in writing, submitted to the town administrator, stating the reasons why the order to disconnect or deactivate should be withdrawn, and shall be made within 15 days of the date of the notice to disconnect or receipt of any false alarm report. The alarm user shall have the burden of proof by preponderance of the evidence.
- (c) The hearing officer shall send notice of hearing to the owner within 15 days prior to the appeal hearing and shall make written findings available to the alarm owner, law enforcement or public safety within ten days from the date the hearing is concluded.
- (d) If the hearing officer affirms the order to disconnect or deactivate an alarm system, the owner shall have five days following the mailing or the written decision of the hearing officer within which to comply with the order.

Section 9: Failure to disconnect or unauthorized reconnection of the alarm system

It shall be a violation of this Code for any person to fail to disconnect or deactivate an alarm system which has been ordered disconnected or deactivated pursuant to section

seven (7), including those situations in which the hearing officer has affirmed the order to disconnect or deactivate. It shall be a violation of this Code for any person to reconnect an alarm system which has been disconnected or deactivated pursuant to the order of the Town of Pine Ridge police department or public safety, unless the reconnection of the alarm system is authorized pursuant to section nine hereof.

Section 10: Reconnection of alarm systems

Law enforcement or public safety shall have the right to inspect the alarm system and test same prior to rescinding the order to disconnect or deactivate. Before any reconnection of an alarm system and after the order to disconnect such system, a reconnection fee of \$25.00 shall be assessed.

Section 11: Automatic telephone dialing alarm device or digital alarm communicator system

(a) It shall be a violation of this Code for any person to install, maintain, operate or use any automatic telephone dialing alarm device or digital alarm communicator system within the county if the system requires connection to the emergency communications center for law enforcement or public safety.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to install, maintain, operate or use any automatic telephone dialing alarm device or digital alarm communicator system within the county unless the system is currently approved by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and has been approved by law enforcement or public safety, unless otherwise required by law.

Section 12: Audible sound systems

All new or existing audible sound systems shall sound no longer than ten minutes for residential and for businesses, unless otherwise required by underwriter's laboratories or law.

Section 13: Penalty and enforcement

Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of an offense and shall be subject to a fine of up to \$500.00 plus court assessments. The provisions of this section may be enforced either by prosecution as a misdemeanor through Municipal Court or by any other legal or equitable form of action.

Section 14: Alarm system operations

The county, its officers, employees and agents shall not assume any duty or responsibility for the installation, maintenance, operation, repair or effectiveness of any privately owned alarm system, those duties and responsibilities being solely those of the owner of the premises. Additionally, it shall be the responsibility of the owner of the premises to silence an activated alarm and thereafter reset the same. The town shall not provide, nor make available, the services of its police department or department of public safety to be an emergency communications center for use by owners as a central location for alarm system receiving equipment.

Section 15: Governmental Immunity

Alarm registration is not intended to, nor will it, create a contract, duty or obligation, either expressed or implied of response. Any and all liability and consequential damage resulting from the failure to respond to a notification is hereby disclaimed and any and all governmental immunity as provided by law is retained. By utilizing an alarm system, the alarm user acknowledges that law enforcement response may be influenced by factors such as the availability of law enforcement units, priority of calls, weather conditions, traffic conditions, emergency conditions, staffing levels, and prior response history.

Section 16: Severability

The provisions of the Ordinance are severable. If a court determines that any part or portion of this Ordinance is invalid or that the application of any part of this Ordinance to any person or circumstance is invalid, the remaining provisions and the application of those provisions to other persons or circumstances are not affected by that decision.

Section 17: Jurisdiction

The provision of this Ordinance shall be applicable within the Town limits of Pine Ridge.

Section 18: Confidentiality.

In the interest of public safety, all information contained in and gathered by the Town of Pine Ridge or provided by the owner of the alarm system shall be held in confidence by all employees and/or representatives of the Town.

Section 19: Effective Date

This ordinance shall be effective on the date of final reading.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND ORDAINED by the Town of Pine Ridge, South Carolina, in Council duly assembled and by the authority thereof, that:

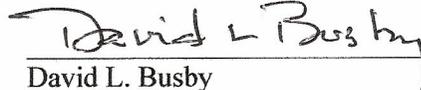
Town Code § 6-304 Burglar alarms: shall be added by the Pine Ridge Town Council and incorporated, in the Pine Ridge Code of Ordinances.

DULY ADOPTED THIS 10th day of September, 2013 under the corporate seal of the Town of Pine Ridge.

Public Hearing: August 13, 2013

First Reading: August 13, 2013

Second Reading: September 10, 2013



David L. Busby
Mayor

Attest:



Viki M. Moak
Town Clerk

TOWN OF PINE RIDGE
ALARM PERMIT

Business Residential

PERMIT# _____

Alarm Location:

Name (Last, First or Business Name)

Street Address

Home Phone Cell Phone Work Phone

Email address

Mailing Address (if different from the Alarm Location):

List two people to contact in the event of an alarm (who can respond within 30 minutes):

Name (Last, First) Home Phone Cell Phone Work Phone

Name (Last, First) Home Phone Cell Phone Work Phone

Alarm Company Information:

Company Name Phone #

Monitoring Company Information (if different from Alarm Company):

Company Name Phone #

Special Conditions at location (i.e., watch dog, disabled persons, etc)

Signature of Alarm Location Owner Date

PERMIT EXPIRES WITHIN ONE YEAR OF ISSUANCE

NON-TRANSFERABLE