



## National Electronic Security Alliance

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Representing electronic security, fire and integrated systems professionals

# NESA Position Paper on Alarm Ordinances

**Summary:** NESA supports effective local alarm ordinances that are developed in a cooperative effort by representatives of public safety, alarm users and alarm dealers.

**Background:** False alarms waste resources and can be effectively reduced by implementing an alarm ordinance that requires best practices and appropriately penalizes alarm abusers to encourage modification of their behavior.

### The Problem:

- Increased demand on public safety agencies for homeland security and other duties, difficulty in filling all the budgeted positions, and sizeable numbers of staff who have been called to serve in the military reserves, can easily cause dissatisfaction with an increased or even a stable amount of false alarms.
- Alarm users purchase an alarm to be safe and most feel that as taxpayers they deserve public safety response to alarms.
- While many alarm dealers are proactive in efforts to reduce false alarms, others are not.

### Recommendations:

- Because each community is different, alarm ordinances must be developed in a cooperative effort by local representatives of public safety, alarm users and alarm dealers.
- All alarm dealers should:
  - Support alarm ordinances that:
    - allow only state or local licensed companies to register a system or request a dispatch when licensing is required.
    - require alarm users to sign a statement signifying that the installer has thoroughly trained them on the system, a copy of which will be attached to the registration.
    - require panels that comply with the SIA CP-01 standard on all new or troubled systems.
    - require two call or enhanced call verification for all burglar alarm systems unless the alarm user opts out by providing public safety and the alarm dealer of record with compelling evidence that an exception should be made.
    - fine alarm users who cause multiple false alarms in a given year.
    - suspend public safety response to alarm abusers who cause excessive false alarms in a given year.
    - appoint a committee or commission composed of public safety, alarm users and the alarm companies to interface with elected officials to give progress reports and make recommendations.
  - Assist alarm users to register their alarm systems.
  - Seek out local public safety officials to offer assistance including participating in Crime Solvers or any other organizations that show support for public safety.
  - Join, participate in, and utilize the information provided by the False Alarm Reduction Association (FARA). FARA is an association primarily of persons employed by government and public safety agencies in charge of, or working in, False Alarm Reduction Units. Its goal is to assist these individuals in reducing false alarms for their jurisdiction.