

Tips for Preventing False Alarms

Security and fire alarm systems are common in our homes and businesses. Simple care, maintenance and education can prevent costly false activation of these protection systems.

Residential Security and Fire Systems:

- Educate the entire family on the operation of the security system and how to disable it.
- Clean (dust and vacuum) smoke detectors and change batteries at least two times each year.
- Notify the security system monitoring company before working on smoke detectors attached to the security system.

Commercial Security and Fire Systems:

- Provide a pass code to employees authorized to disable the system.
- Do not allow employees without a pass code access to the building when the security system is active.
- Participate in annual fire alarm system testing, inspection and maintenance as required by the Minnesota State Fire Code and National Fire Protection Association standard 72. Documentation of such annual testing must be maintained at the place of business with a copy submitted to the City of Shakopee.
- If experiencing false alarms of unknown cause, contact the alarm company for service.

Security and Fire System Installations:

- If installing a new security system or upgrading an older security system, always work with reputable contractors who are knowledgeable in the installation and maintenance of these systems.
- If the contractor is supplying fire detection devices, make sure they are located to help prevent false activations. Smoke detectors should not be placed near kitchens or bathrooms or near air ducts. Heat detectors can be substituted for smoke detectors in certain applications.

For additional information regarding residential and commercial fire alarm systems, please contact the Shakopee Fire Prevention Bureau at 952-233-9336.