
**A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF BLACKFALDS, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO
CONTROL SECURITY ALARM SYSTEMS SO AS TO REDUCE FALSE ALARMS
REQUIRING RCMP OR FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE**

WHEREAS Council of the Town of Blackfalds has the authority to enact bylaws under the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA c. M-26, respecting the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property; and

WHEREAS False alarms requiring unnecessary emergency responses pose a threat to the safety of law enforcement personnel and the public by creating unnecessary hazards and delaying attendance at genuine emergencies, and result in considerable unnecessary expense; and

WHEREAS Council of the Town of Blackfalds deems it desirable and necessary in order to protect and preserve the safety and welfare of all its citizens that alarm systems be controlled so as to minimize false alarms.

NOW THEREFORE, Council of the Town of Blackfalds, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts the following:

PART 1 - TITLE

- 1 That this Bylaw shall be known as the **“Security Alarm System Bylaw”**.

PART 2 - DEFINITIONS

- 2 In this Bylaw the following definitions shall apply:
- 2.1 **“Alarm Company”** means a business whether carried on by an individual, partnership, or corporation or other entity and engaged in the selling, leasing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, moving, installing or monitoring of a Security Alarm System;
- 2.2 **“Alarm Coordinator”** means the person assigned by the Town to administer the provisions of this bylaw;
- 2.3 **“Alarm Dispatch Request”** means a notification to a law enforcement agency that an alarm, either manual or automatic or electronic has been activated at a particular Alarm Site;
- 2.4 **“Alarm Permit”** means the application form completed by the Alarm User or Alarm Company providing the required information for the Town to ensure compliance.
- 2.5 **“Alarm Registration”** means the formal notification process by an Alarm Company or an Alarm User to the Alarm Coordinator that an Alarm System has been installed and is in use, through the registration process of that system in accordance with Part 3 of this bylaw;
- 2.6 **“Alarm Service Provider”** means a business, whether carried on by an individual, partnership, corporation or other entity, engaged in the selling, leasing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving, installing or Monitoring of an Alarm System;
- 2.7 **“Alarm Site”** means all property, including residential and commercial property, within a single fixed premises or location served by an Alarm System or systems;
- 2.8 **“Alarm System”** means any device designed to detect an unauthorized entry, other illegal act or emergency at an Alarm Site, which, when activated, emits or transmits a local or remote audible, visual or electronic signal intended to act, or to summon the RCMP or Blackfalds’ Fire Department whether monitored by an Alarm Service Provider or not, but excludes a device installed in a vehicle;



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- 2.9 **“Alarm User”** means any person, firm, partnership, corporation or other entity who uses and is responsible for the control of any Alarm System at its Alarm Site. There may be more than one Alarm User at any one Alarm Site;
- 2.10 **“Automatic Calling Device”** means any device, or combination of devices, that will upon activation, either mechanically, electronically or by any other automatic means, initiate a telephone or recorded message or any other signal intended to alert another person of a security occurrence or the existence of an emergency situation and which is designated to be transmitted over regular telephone lines but does not include a device commonly referred to as a telephone;
- 2.11 **“False Alarm”** means any activation of an Alarm System which results in a response and attendance by the RCMP or Blackfalds’ Fire Department at an Alarm Site, where no unauthorized entry to the alarmed premises or other illegal act or emergency has occurred and no similar emergency exists, no matter how that request for service is received and includes, but is not limited to an Alarm System that:
- a) is being tested without prior notice to the RCMP and Blackfalds’ Fire Department;
 - b) is activated by a mechanical failure or malfunction, or faulty equipment;
 - c) is activated by the presence or movement of pets, or any other interior movement, at the Alarm Site;
 - d) which is activated by any act of negligence, error or omission; or
 - e) is activated by atmospheric conditions, excessive vibrations, power failure or communications failure, unless it is shown by the owner of the Alarm Site that the False Alarm was caused by a storm, lightning, fire, earthquake or act of God;
- 2.12 **“Keyholder”** means an individual designated by the Alarm User who can be contacted in the event of an alarm condition, and who must have access to the Alarm Site and be able to operate the Alarm System;
- 2.13 **“Local Alarm”** means an alarm which generates an audible sound only in or about the premises where it is located when it is activated;
- 2.14 **“Local Alarm System”** means any Alarm System that annunciates an alarm only by a local alarm;
- 2.15 **“Malicious false fire alarm”** means when a person or persons unknown with intent to cause disruption within a structure has activated a pull station or a detection device.
- 2.16 **“Monitored Alarm System”** means an Alarm System, excluding a Local Alarm, which when activated transmits a sound, signal, or message to a location where personnel are in attendance at all times and one of whose functions is to notify the RCMP of the Alarm System being activated;
- 2.17 **“Municipal Ticket”** means a municipal ticket issued in the form prescribed by the Chief Administrative Officer on behalf of the Town for a violation under this Bylaw;
- 2.18 **“Peace Officer”** means any member of the RCMP, a Community Peace Officer or a Bylaw Enforcement Officer for the Town;
- 2.19 **“Takeover”** means the transaction or process by which an Alarm User takes over control of an existing Alarm System, which was previously controlled by another Alarm User;
- 2.20 **“Violation Ticket”** means as defined by the Provincial Offences Procedures Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. P-34;



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PART 3 – ALARM SYSTEMS

- 3 Alarm Systems must be installed to meet all applicable federal, provincial and municipal codes, standards and regulations.
- 4 No person shall provide, install, maintain or use any Automatic Calling Device which is programmed to access the emergency telephone number “911” or any other telephone number used by the RCMP or Blackfalds’ Fire Department.
- 5 Testing of an Alarm System is permitted, however the Alarm System shall be placed “out of service” when testing or maintenance is undertaken, such that a False Alarm is not caused.

PART 4 – REGISTRATION & PERMIT

- 6 An Alarm User must register an Alarm System through a permit process. Each individual unit or portion of a property or building which has an independent Alarm System shall be considered a separate Alarm Site and a separate permit is required for each Alarm Site.
- 7 All permits will require the payment of the permit fee as set out in Schedule “A” to this bylaw. The initial registration and payment of fees must be made to the Alarm Coordinator within ten (10) business days after the alarm installation of alarm Takeover.
- 8 A permit may be refused if:
 - (a) the applicant refuses to pay the registration fees as set out in Schedule “A” of this bylaw;
 - (b) has provided false information in relation to the registration;
 - (c) has had the permit suspended due to a violation that has not been corrected.
- 9 Each Alarm Permit in the form of Schedule “B” to this Bylaw must be completed in its entirety and signed off by the applicant.
- 10 Providing false information on the permit application form by the applicant for the purpose of obtaining an Alarm Permit shall be sufficient cause for refusal to issue, revocation, or suspension of a registration.
- 11 An Alarm Permit cannot be transferred to another Person or Alarm Site.
- 12 An Alarm User shall inform the Alarm Coordinator with ten (10) business days of any change that alters any information listed on the permit application.
- 13 All permits shall expire one (1) year from the date of issuance and must be renewed by re-applying for a permit and paying the applicable fee as set out in Schedule “A” to this Bylaw to the Alarm Coordinator.
- 14 Failure to register and obtain an Alarm Permit will result in a fine as outlined in Schedule “A”.
- 15 The Alarm Coordinator shall make reasonable effort to notify each Alarm user of the need to renew thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the registration.

PART 5 - FALSE ALARM RESPONSE FEES

- 16 When the RCMP or Fire Department are called out to respond to a False Alarm from an alarm system within a residential property, the Alarm User shall pay the applicable fee amount set out in Schedule “A” hereto.
- 17 When the RCMP or Fire Department are called out to respond to a False Alarm from an alarm system within a non-residential property, the Alarm User shall pay the applicable fee amount set out in Schedule “A” hereto.



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- 18 When the RCMP or Fire Department respond to a structure where and intentional misuse and activation of a pull system or detection device has taken place, the Alarm User shall pay the applicable fee amount set out in Schedule "A" hereto
- 19 The following shall not be included when computing the number of False Alarms which have occurred pursuant to Section 16 & 17 of this bylaw:
- (a) any False Alarm which the owner can demonstrate was caused by a storm, lightning, fire, earthquake, or other act of God;
 - (b) any False Alarm where Cancellation has occurred prior to Police arrival and within five minutes from the time of the dispatch to RCMP patrol unit;
 - (c) any False Alarm caused by communication network disruptions beyond the control of the alarm owner, employee or designate; and
 - (d) any False Alarm that occurs during the first seven (7) days after the initial installation of an Alarm System.
- 20 Any person who is charged a response fee pursuant to this Bylaw must pay the fee within the time and manner specified on the invoice from the Town setting out the response fee amount.
- 21 No response fee will be charged for the first False Alarm at an Alarm Site after this Bylaw is passed.
- 22 An Alarm Permit will be revoked if more than three (3) False Alarms take place at the same address within a six (6) month period. A fee as outlined in Schedule "A" will be required to reinstate the permit.

PART 6 - DUTIES OF ALARM COMPANIES

- 23 Alarm Company shall be responsible to ensure all necessary employees or contractors and the customer are aware of the provisions of this bylaw, and to provide current, accurate information to the Town as required by the provisions of this bylaw.
- 24 Upon completion of an installation, or following any inspection of an Alarm System pursuant to this bylaw, an Alarm Company employee shall:
- (a) offer a training period to customers upon installation of alarm;
 - (b) ensure that all new customers have in possession a copy of the Alarm permit as set out in Schedule "B" to this bylaw.
- 25 An Alarm Company performing monitoring services shall attempt to verify every alarm signal before requesting a Police or Fire Department response to an alarm system signal.
- 26 An Alarm Company performing monitoring services shall communicate alarm dispatch requests and cancellations to the RCMP and Fire Department in a manner and form determined by the Town.
- 27 Failure by the Alarm Company to perform any of the duties described in this part may result in a penalty as outlined in Schedule "A" of this Bylaw.

PART 7 - DUTIES OF THE ALARM USER

- 28 An Alarm User shall:
- a) maintain the applicable premises and the Alarm System in a manner that will minimize or eliminate False Alarms;
 - b) make every reasonable effort to respond to the Alarm System's location as an owner or by a Keyholder within twenty (20) minutes when notified to deactivate a malfunctioning Alarm System;



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- (c) provide RCMP and the Fire Department access to the premises when an Alarm Dispatch Request is made, and where necessary ensure security for the premises such that RCMP and Fire Department resources may be released as soon as possible after responding to such a request;
 - (d) not manually activate an Alarm for any reason other than an occurrence of an event that the Alarm System was intended to report.
- 29 An Alarm User shall adjust the mechanism or cause the mechanism to be adjusted so that an alarm signal audible on the exterior of an Alarm Site will sound for no longer than five (5) minutes after being activated .
- 30 Failure by the Alarm User to perform any of the duties described in this Part may result in a penalty as outlines in Schedule "A" of this Bylaw.

PART 8 – GENERAL

- 31 Schedule "A" and Schedule "B" as attached form part of this bylaw.
- 32 RCMP and Fire Services will monitor and record false alarms which will then be submitted to the Alarm Coordinator and Senior Peace Officer for enforcement action.
- 33 Where the Alarm Coordinator or Peace Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a person has contravened any provisions of this Bylaw:
- (a) they may serve a Municipal Ticket allowing payment of the specified fine as set out in this Bylaw, which payment will be accepted by the Town, in lieu of prosecution for the offence; or
 - (b) they may issue and serve a Violation Ticket in accordance with the Provincial Offences Procedure Act RSA 2000, c. P-34 and amendments thereto, allowing a voluntary payment of the specified fine as set out in this Bylaw, or requiring a person to appear in court, without the alternative of making a voluntary payment.
- 34 Nothing prevents a Peace Officer from issuing a Violation Ticket without having first issued a Municipal Ticket.
- 35 If any provision of this Bylaw is found to be void or unenforceable, it shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Bylaw.

PART 9 - RESCINDED

- 36 That Bylaw 1176/14 is hereby rescinded.

PART 10 – DATE OF FORCE

- 37 That this Bylaw shall come into full force and effect upon the date on which it is finally read and passed.

READ for a First time this _____ day of _____, A.D., 20 ____.

(RES NO.)

MAYOR MELODIE STOL

CAO MYRON THOMPSON



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
BYLAW 1191/15

READ for a Second time this 28th day of April, A.D., 20 15.

(RES NO. 112/15)


MAYOR MELODIE STOL


CAO MYRON THOMPSON

READ for a Third time this 28th day of April, A.D., 20 15.

(RES NO. 113/15)


MAYOR MELODIE STOL


CAO MYRON THOMPSON



BYLAW 1191/15 - SCHEDULE "A"

Offences and Penalties					
Part	Section	Offence	-----Fines-----		
			First	Second	Third and Subsequent
2	4	Use of Automatic Calling Device to notify RCMP and Fire	\$100.00		
4	14	Failure to register and obtain a permit for an alarm	\$100.00		
5	15	Residential False Alarm Response – within a calendar year at the same alarm site	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$500.00
5	16	Non-Residential False Alarm Response – within a calendar year at the same alarm site	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$600.00
5	18	Cause a Malicious False Alarm	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$1000.00
6	23-26	Duties of Alarm Companies – residential & non-residential	\$100.00		
7	28-29	Duties of Alarm User – residential & non-residential	\$100.00		
Costs and Fees					
Description			Fee/Cost		
Alarm Permit (new) – Residential & Non-Residential			\$10.00		
Alarm Permit (takeover) – Residential & Non-Residential			\$10.00		
Alarm Permit (renewal) – Residential & Non-Residential			\$10.00		
Alarm Permit (reinstatement) – Residential & Non-Residential			\$100.00		

An Alarm Permit is required to operate an alarm system in the Town of Blackfalds, for both residents and businesses.

Why does the Town have an Alarm Bylaw?

- Town Council has the authority under the Municipal Government Act to enact bylaws that respect the health and welfare of the people and protect property. Council deems it necessary to regulate alarm systems in buildings and residences in order to minimize false alarms and to protect and preserve the well being of its citizens.

Do I require an Alarm Permit?

- An Alarm Permit is required to operate an alarm system in the Town of Blackfalds.
- Permits are available at the Town Office at 5018 Waghorn Street, <http://www.blackfalds.com/contact>
- The **cost is \$10** for either residential or business. Permits are non-transferrable to a new building or to a new owner. The new owner must apply for a new permit. A change in residence or buildings requires a new permit. Alarm permits must be renewed yearly.

Is there a penalty if I do not have an Alarm Permit?

- Yes, a fine of **\$100** will be charged for failure to register and obtain a permit for an alarm system.

Can an alarm company install an alarm system before I receive my Alarm Permit?

- No - An alarm company or its employees cannot install an alarm system unless the owner or occupant has a valid Alarm Permit. Should this occur, a fine of **\$100** will result.

Is there a false alarm response fee if the RCMP are dispatched to my home or business?

- Yes, the Town of Blackfalds charges a response fee of **\$250** for a second false alarm response to a residence and **\$500** for a third response. Second response to a non-residence is **\$300** with a fee of **\$600** for a third response. There is no false alarm fee levied for a first response to a residence or non-residence.

Is there a penalty if I have too many false alarms?

- Yes - If you have more than three (3) false alarms in any six (6) month period, to the same address, your permit will be revoked and use of your alarm system prohibited. Payment of a fee of **\$100** is required to reinstate your permit.

Do I need key holders?

- After an alarm, it is desirable to inspect the premises as soon as possible to determine if unlawful entry has occurred. Owners or their designates are required to attend the premise within twenty (20) minutes. Key holder lists should be reviewed regularly, with any changes reported to your alarm monitoring company.

Where can I get more information?

- View the Security Alarm System Bylaw #1191/15 at <http://www.blackfalds.com/town-hall/bylaws> or contact the Town Office at 403-885-4677.



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
 Box 220
 5018 Waghorn Street
 Blackfalds AB T0M 0J0

PERMIT NUMBER:

SCHEDULE "B" ALARM PERMIT

PREMISES INFORMATION (Please print legibly)			
RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANT (Surname, First Name)	Home Phone (Area Code)	Work (Area Code)	Cell (Area Code)
1. MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY
2.	Home Phone (Area Code)	Work (Area Code)	Cell (Area Code)
COMMERCIAL PREMISE (Name)			___ New Business
COMMERCIAL APPLICANT ONLY			___ New Ownership
Contact Name		Business Phone (Area Code)	
MANDATORY		MANDATORY	
Business Hours:			
SUN:	MON:	TUES:	WED:
THURS:	FRI:	SAT:	
ADDRESS OF PROTECTED PREMISE			Postal Code:
MANDATORY			MANDATORY
Mailing Address (If different than above)			Postal Code:
			MANDATORY

ALARM INFORMATION (Please print legibly)		
Name of INSTALLING OR MAINTENANCE AGENCY or ___ Self Installed	Phone (Area Code)	Bus. Licence #
MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY
Name of Monitoring Alarm Agency or _____ Self-Monitoring	Phone (Area Code)	Bus. Licence #
MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY

KEYHOLDER INFORMATION		(Keyholders must be able to attend address within 20 minutes)	
Must be persons NOT living in premise address!			
(Surname, First Name)	Home Phone (Area Code)	Work (Area Code)	Cell (Area Code)
1. MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY
(Surname, First Name)	Home Phone (Area Code)	Work (Area Code)	Cell (Area Code)
2. MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE TOWN OF BLACKFALDS ALARM BYLAW 1191/15 and THAT ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS APPLICATION IS CORRECT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature	Date
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Personal information collected on this Alarm Permit Application Form is being collected under the authority of Section 33 (c) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and will be used to process and administer your alarm permit. Questions about the use or collection of this information should be directed to the Town of Blackfalds FOIP Coordinator at 403-885-6248.

ALL PERMITS ARE NON TRANSFERABLE

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Permit Fee Charged	Method of Payment	Clerk Initials	PERMIT NUMBER:
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In accordance with the Town of Blackfalds Bylaw 1191/15 and subject to all provisions and regulations stated therein, including suspension or termination, this permit authorizes the installation and use of the alarm system as described in the application above.

Not valid until endorsed by Town of Blackfalds