

Town of Lamoine

Policy Regarding False Fire Alarm Response

Statement of Purpose & Intent

This policy is made in response to an increasing number of fire and burglar alarm installations which have resulted in an increased number of malfunctions. Because of the potential for increased false alarms, expenses for fire department response could rise markedly. It is the purpose of this policy to discourage the incidence of false alarm. It is the intent of this policy to allow automatic fire alarms, but to encourage their proper installation and use.

Authority

This policy is jointly adopted by the Town of Lamoine Board of Selectmen and the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department. The Fire Department, being a separate and distinct body, shall be the organization responsible for enforcement of the tenets of this policy. The Board of Selectmen, duly elected and sworn, have engaged the services of the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department to be the primary municipal fire protection agency for the Town of Lamoine.

Validity & Severability

Should any section of this policy be declared illegal or unenforceable, it shall not invalidate any other section of this policy.

Definitions

Fire Alarm – A device which activates to indicate presence of fire or smoke within a building or area of a building.

False Alarm – A fire alarm which has activated, but there is no presence of smoke or fire within the building or area of a building to which the alarm is assigned.

Response – The activation of the fire department notification system which results in the deployment of manpower and/or equipment & apparatus from the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department

Suppression – An act to extinguish fire, halt the travel of smoke, ventilate excessive heat, or otherwise respond to an emergency situation.

Year – A period of time involving 365 consecutive days. For purposes of this policy, the year shall start with receipt of the first false alarm.

Standards

A home with a fire alarm shall be allowed response to no more than two false alarms during any given year. The Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department shall respond to all alarm reports under its standard operating procedures in place for structure fire response. Once on the scene, the incident commander for the call shall determine whether suppression or other emergency response is necessary, or if the alarm was falsely activated.

After a second false alarm, the owner of the building with said alarm shall be notified that further alarms will result in a fine.

After the 3rd and for all subsequent alarm receipts during the year, the owner of the building shall be obligated to pay to the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department a sum of \$100 per false alarm activation. The treasurer or chief of the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department shall send the bill. Payment is due in 30 days. Late payments shall be charged an interest fee of 18% per year.

A copy of this policy shall be kept at the Lamoine Town Hall, available for public inspection during business hours.

Be it hereby ordered by the Lamoine Board of Selectmen this 24th day of April, 1996.

/s/ William Collier, Chairman

/s/ Arthur Alley

/s/ Glenn Crawford

This policy is adopted by the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department this 11th day of April, 1996 at a regularly held business meeting.

/s/ George F. Smith, Chief