

Article 17, Section 14 – Town of Becket Betterment By-Laws

**SECTION 14.** Regulations and Control of Fire Detection and Alarm Systems. By definition, "Fire Detection and Alarm Systems", are those installed in privately owned structures, residential, education, religious, commercial, industrial, which, when activated, result in an alarm of fire or illegal entry being transmitted. Alarm transmittal may be by the sounding of an external alarm, alerting the general public; by automatic telephone call; be personal telephone call; by direct connection, or by any other means. This section shall consist of the following paragraphs: (Adopted 6/6/87)

1. No fire detection and alarm system, as defined, shall be installed without prior notice to the Fire Chief and/or Police Chief for review and approval.
2. **The owner of the property in which the system is installed shall furnish, in writing, to the Fire Chief/Police Chief telephone numbers (other than the protected premises) with the names of responsible individuals, who are authorized to respond to emergency calls and provide access to the structure. Enough names and numbers shall be furnished to insure availability of at least one such individual at any hour of the day, or night. This listing shall be revised, as required, to be kept current and accurate.**
3. No testing, repairing, altering, or other actions, which might result in the transmittal of an alarm to the Fire Department/Police Department shall be performed without prior notification to the Fire Department/Police Department.
4. Failure to comply with any of the requirements of Paragraph 1 through 3 may be punishable by a fine of, but not to exceed \$25.00 assessed to the property owner and payable to the Town Treasurer, for deposit in the General Fund.
5. False Alarms of fire/illegal entry are those transmitted, when no fire/illegal entry condition exists, and are the result of negligence, or defective equipment.
6. The owner of any property in which a Fire Detection and Alarm system is installed, which transmit false alarms per Paragraph 5, shall be penalized in accordance with the following schedule: (Amended 1/19/93)

FIRST FALSE ALARM - A warning, in writing from the Fire Chief or Police Chief to the property owner, including this section.

SECOND FALSE ALARM - (Within twelve (12) months of the date of the first false alarm) A fine of \$50.00 will be assessed to the property owner payable to the Town Treasurer to deposit in General Fund.

THIRD & SUBSEQUENT FALSE ALARMS - (Within twelve (12) months of the date of the first false alarm shall be fined \$100.00 for each false alarm. A false alarm beyond twelve (12) months from the date of the first false alarm shall be considered a first false alarm, as defined in this schedule.

7. When the Fire Department/Police Department responds to an alarm of fire/illegal entry transmitted by a Fire Detection and Alarm System, where the premises are unoccupied; the department is unable to gain access to the structure; and is unable to contact any of the individuals listed, for access; the Fire Officer/Police Officer in command, may if he has reasonable concern, or suspicion that a fire/illegal entry exist within the structure - make a forcible entry to determine whether or not fire conditions exist. If this action becomes necessary, the Fire/Police Officer shall:
  - a. Notify the Fire/Police Department of this action.
  - b. Secure the premises insofar as feasible.
  - c. Continue efforts to contact the individuals listed as responsible for the structure.
  - d. Enter the action taken in the Fire Department/Police Department Log
8. All installations will be inspected and tested prior to the permit being validated. Upon validation the installation may be connected.
9. Devices shall have lightning surge protection.
10. Devices shall not activate on account of power interruptions. Voice message shall not exceed 15 seconds in duration. Devices shall not dial more than twice for the same alarm.
11. Equipment shall be serviced by a competent serviceman at least once every two years. Reports of such services shall be made to the Department Head.