

Alarm Management Program of Suffolk County FAQ

What is a false alarm?

A false alarm is any alarm activation resulting in a physical response by police that, after investigation, is determined to have not been caused by a committed or attempted crime.

Why was this law created?

The Suffolk County Police Department responded to 97,000 false alarms in 2015. This consumed over 32,000 patrol hours, diverting officers and resources from real emergencies. Following the example of hundreds of municipalities across the nation, including several on Long Island, including Nassau County and all five East End towns, this law is intended to increase public safety for all residents by reducing false alarms.

When and how can I register?

Registration opens April 1, 2016.

You can register for the Alarm Management Program beginning **April 1, 2016**:

ONLINE by clicking the “Alarm Management” button at www.SuffolkPD.org. Payment can be made online by credit card.

IN PERSON at the Police Department’s AMPS Office located at 30 Yaphank Avenue in Yaphank between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

BY MAIL by picking up an application at any police precinct or by downloading the permit form from www.SuffolkPD.org. Mail the completed form AND fee to the AMPS Office at 30 Yaphank Avenue, Yaphank, NY 11980.

Fees MUST be enclosed with applications. Checks should be payable to the Suffolk County Police Department (cash will not be accepted). After the application and fee have been processed, an Alarm Permit with your permit number will be mailed to you.

The initial permit registration fee is \$50 for residences and \$100 for commercial establishments with a proposed 50% reduction for yearly renewal. (note: IR 1026 is pending and attached).

When do I have to register by?

June 1st is when the police department will start assessing service fees for false alarms.

When does my registration expire?

Registration must be renewed on a yearly basis. The current renewal fee for residents is \$50 and commercial is \$100 however there is legislation currently before the legislature that will lower the renewal fee to \$25 for residents and \$50 for commercial. (IR 1026 - attached).

Do I have to register? / What happens if I do not register?

Yes, registration is required. If you register, no service fee will be assessed for the first two false alarms. If you do not register, a service fee is imposed on the first false alarm and you will be charged a higher rate for subsequent false alarms.

What is the penalty for not registering?

If you do not register, and the Suffolk County Police Department responds to a false alarm at your home, you will be assessed a service fee on the first response as opposed to the third.

My alarm goes off when we lose power during storms; will that be counted against me?

No. False alarm responses are exempt during verifiable utility failures.

If I install my own alarm system do I have to have it registered?

Yes. Every alarm owner must register their alarm system. (Police may be notified by a neighbor or a passing citizen).

If I call the PD to cancel a false alarm will that count against me?

Your alarm company needs to cancel the call. No charge will be assessed if the call is cancelled before a police response.

How is “false” determined?

A false alarm is any alarm activation resulting in a physical response by police that, after investigation, is determined to have not been caused by a committed or attempted crime.

Why do I have to pay to register if I’ve never had a false alarm?

Registration is important to ensure the Police Department has up to date and accurate information on file. This will help ensure that police have the best possible information if and when they need to respond to your home.

Can the registration fee be waived for people with no history of false alarm calls?

No

What does the registration fee cover?

Registration is valid for 365 days and will allow for two false alarm incidents without fines. Each time you renew you will be granted two additional false alarms.

Does SCPD have enough staff to address the program without increasing cost to taxpayers?

Yes, the Alarm Management Program of Suffolk County is a self-sustaining program.

What if someone tries to break in, but by the time PD arrives they are gone- will I be fined?

Only false alarms are handled by the Alarm Management Program. An alarm signal activated by the commission or attempted commission of an unlawful act or emergency is not a false alarm.

Who instituted/approved this program?

The Suffolk County Police Department created this program following the successful model of hundreds of jurisdictions which have used similar programs to reduce false alarms. It was approved by the Suffolk the Legislature and signed by the County Executive.

Are the fees the same throughout the police district?

The fees are constant throughout the Police District.

What will the fee be used for?

The registration fee will be used to offset the costs of creating the Alarm Systems Bureau in the SCPD while increasing public safety. Any additional revenue generated from the registration fees will go toward funding the police department.

Can I appeal a fine?

Yes. If you would like to appeal a fine, you can submit a written request to the Alarm Management Program within 10 business days. The request must include the following:

- Your name
- Your registration number
- The address where your alarm is installed
- The date of the false alarm
- The reasons why you think it wasn't a false alarm

Can alarm registration be transferred to a new home owner?

No. All new home owners must register separately.

Can I take my registration with me to a new residence?

No. A permit may not be transferred to any other building.

What is the false alarm penalty?

AMPS Service Fees

REGISTERED ALARM OWNERS:

	Residential	Commercial
1.	Warning	Warning
2.	Warning	Warning
3.	\$100	\$150
4.	\$150	\$200
5.	\$200	\$250
6.	\$250	\$500
7.	\$300	\$500
8.	\$350	\$500
9.	\$450	\$500
10.	\$500	\$500

NON-REGISTERED ALARM OWNERS:

	Residential	Commercial
1.	\$100	\$200
2.	\$150	\$250
3.	\$200	\$300
4.	\$250	\$300
5.	\$300	\$500
6.	\$350	\$550
7.	\$400	\$600
8.	\$500	\$650
9.	\$500	\$750
10.	\$500	\$750

**Note that IR 1026 is pending and if approved will slightly alter the fee structure for registered residences.