

A false alarm is any activation of a business or residential alarm system that results in the RCMP determining it is not a valid alarm. This may include the following:

- ▶ accidental activation
- ▶ authorized persons not disarming the alarm system properly upon entry
- ▶ no evidence of forced or illegal entry
- ▶ faulty equipment
- ▶ any situation that is deemed not to be a genuine emergency

These calls take RCMP away from, or delay their response to, genuine emergency situations. Leduc County established its False Alarm Bylaw at the request of the Leduc RCMP to address the amount of time and resources spent dealing with false alarms.

When an alarm system generates more than one false alarm within a calendar year (January to December), the county may charge the person responsible for the alarm system a fee relating to the cost of emergency personnel response. The fees for false alarm responses are as follows:

- ▶ first false alarm each year: \$0 fee
- ▶ second false alarm each year: \$150 fee
- ▶ third false alarm each year: \$250 fee
- ▶ fourth and subsequent false alarm each year: \$500 fee per incident

Preventing false alarms

False alarms are costly for everyone, including the property owner, Leduc County and the RCMP.

To help prevent false alarms, consider listing a trusted friend, family member, employee or mobile security contractor as the primary contact with your alarm company. Should an alarm system be activated, this person will be responsible for evaluating the situation to determine if police response is required. The RCMP can then be contacted if there is a genuine emergency.

All business and residential property owners are responsible for ensuring their alarm system is regularly maintained – including testing and checking for functionality – and that only authorized persons have been given access. We encourage you to send a copy of this information to your alarm company for its information.

Property owners who have a home and/or business alarm system are encouraged to contact Leduc County Enforcement Services at **780-955-5005** if their contact or billing information changes.