



Travis County ESD #12

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False Alarm Policy

False fire alarms reduce the occupant's sense of urgency concerning emergency evacuation during fires and other on-site emergencies. To prevent this issue, the Travis County ESD #12 Fire Department has established the following policies.

To ensure that fire alarms are properly functioning and reduce the problem of excessive false alarms, it is the policy of the Travis County ESD #12 Fire Department to fine for response to excessive false fire alarm activations. Properties will be fined after five false alarms at the same street address in one calendar year. **The fine for response to excessive false alarms will be \$350 per incident.** The business where the alarm is located will be responsible for paying the fine.

Anytime the department responds to a reported "Fire Alarm" and, upon arrival, finds that it is actually another type of alarm activation (i.e. burglar/security alarm, trouble alert, etc.), the property owner **will be fined \$500 per incident.** There is no minimum per calendar year.

Anytime a required Fire Protection System (Fire Alarm, Smoke or Heat Detection, Sprinkler System, or other required Fire Protection System) in an occupied structure must be taken out of service or is in a non-operational status, a "Fire Watch" is required, unless otherwise approved by the fire code official. This involves a person completing a fire safety walk around the building(s) in question, every half hour, until the system is put back into full service. TCESD 12 may require a Fire Watch by an independent 3rd party company, with appropriate qualifications. The business will be responsible for the fees for this service.

IFC 901.7 Systems out of service. Where a required *fire protection system* is out of service, **the fire department and the fire code official shall be notified immediately** and, where required by the *fire code official*, the building shall either be evacuated or an *approved* fire watch shall be provided for all occupants left unprotected by the shutdown until the *fire protection system* has been returned to service.

If you have any questions, please contact our department at the above number.