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**Title 5R**

**BUSINESS RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**Chapter:**

**5R.40 Alarm Systems - Equipment and Operating  
Standards**

NOTE: Footnotes are numbered throughout the text and are located at the end of this title.

**Chapter 5R.40****ALARM SYSTEMS - EQUIPMENT AND OPERATING STANDARDS****Section:**

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**5R.40.010 Purpose.**

This chapter is adopted pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 5.40 of the Chico Municipal Code which authorizes the adoption of equipment and operating standards for alarm systems installed and operated within the city.

(Res. No. 70 94-95 §1 (part))

**5R.40.020 Definitions.**

Unless the contrary is stated or clearly appears from the context, the definitions set forth in Chapter 5.40 of this code and the definitions hereinafter set forth in this section shall govern the construction of the words and phrases used in this chapter:

- A. Alarm Company. Any individual, partnership, corporation or other entity which receives, retransmits and/or responds to alarms from an alarm system.
- B. Audible Alarm. An alarm device located on premises which is designed to detect a fire, burglary or robbery and which generates an audible sound when activated.
- C. Automatic Dialing Device. An alarm device which is interconnected to a telephone line and is programmed to select a predetermined telephone number and transmits by voice message or code signal an emergency message indicating the need for an emergency response by the police or fire department.
- D. Panic Alarm. An alarm device worn on the person of alarm user which is designed to activate an alarm system.
- E. Silent Alarm. An alarm which reports to a remote location via a telephone line, radio transmitter or other nonaudible means.
- F. Trunkline. Any telephone line, including 911 emergency lines leading directly to the police department communications center, designed to receive emergency calls.

(Res. No. 70 94-95 §1 (part))

**5R.40.030 Audible alarms - Automatic alarm shutoff and reset device required - Disconnection authorized following extended continuous emission - Disconnection cost payable by alarm user.**

All audible alarms, excluding fire alarms which generate a sound indicating the functioning of an automatic fire sprinkling system, shall be equipped with a device which will limit the generation of the audible sound to not longer than 15 minutes after activation. If an audible alarm has continuously emitted an alarm signal in excess of 30 minutes within a one hour period, the police department may cause such alarm to be disconnected by an alarm company and the cost of such disconnection shall be payable by the alarm user.

(Res. No. 70 94-95 §1 (part))

**5R.40.040 Auxiliary power systems - Required - Monitoring capability necessary.**

All alarm systems shall be equipped with an uninterruptible backup power supply which shall operate in such a manner so that in the event of failure or interruption of normal utility service power the alarm system will not be activated. The backup power supply shall be capable of maintaining the alarm system in operation for at least four hours following the interruption of the normal power supply. The backup system shall not be capable of activating the alarm system by virtue of a defect in its condition.

(Res. No. 70 94-95 §1 (part))

**5R.40.050 Siren sound - Prohibited.**

On and after July 1, 1995, it is unlawful to initially install an alarm system which, upon activation, emits a sound similar to sirens used on emergency vehicles or for civil disaster purposes or to replace an existing alarm system with another alarm system which, upon activation, emits a sound similar to sirens used on emergency vehicles or for civil disaster purposes.

(Res. No. 70 94-95 §1 (part))

**5R.40.060 Automatic dialing devices - Prohibited connections.**

No automatic dialing device shall be interconnected to a trunkline of the police or fire departments or a 911 trunkline. The relaying of messages relating to alarm activation on any premises to the police communications center by an automatic dialing device is prohibited.

(Res. No. 70 94-95 §1 (part))

**5R.40.070 Automatic dialing - Live answering service required.**

Any automatic telephonic dialing system registering any form of alarm shall dial to, and the message shall be received by, a live, twenty-four hour answering service such as a private alarm dispatch center.

(Res. No. 70 94-95 §1 (part))

**5R.40.080 Alarm activation - Burglaries, robberies and life threatening situations - Allowed and prohibited activation.**

A robbery, burglary, medical or panic alarm may be activated only in the event of a robbery, burglary, or life-threatening incident which is in progress. Any other activation is

prohibited. In those instances where the suspect in a robbery, burglary, or life-threatening situation has fled the scene of the crime, the 911 emergency line will be used to notify the police communications center of the incident, and the alarm system shall not be utilized for such notification.

(Res. No. 70 94-95 §1 (part))

**5R.40.090 Alarm shutoff or testing - Prior notification required.**

The police communications center shall be notified prior to any shutoff, service, test, repair, maintenance, adjustment, alteration or installation of alarm systems which might activate a false alarm which would result in a police or fire department response. Such notification shall be via a business line. Notification via an emergency line is prohibited. Any alarm activated where such prior notice has been given shall not constitute a false alarm.

(Res. No. 70 94-95 §1 (part))

**5R.40.100 Alarm system standards - Inspection by city authorized.**

All alarm systems and appurtenant equipment installed within the city shall meet or exceed the standards of the industry, the standards incorporated in this chapter and such other standards as may hereafter be enacted by the city. Fire alarm systems shall be approved by the State Fire Marshal when such systems are of a type subject to fire marshal approval. Personnel of the police, fire and building and development services departments of the city, as may be appropriate, are authorized to inspect all alarm systems installed within the city.

(Res. No. 70 94-95 §1 (part), Res. No. 113-07)

**5R.40.110 Private security guard response regulations.**

Alarm companies who respond to or cause a response to alarms with a private security guard shall adhere to the following regulations.

- A. Vehicle operations shall comply with all traffic laws and shall be conducted in a safe manner.
- B. Prior to or concurrent with the dispatch of security guards, the police communications center shall be notified of such dispatch.
- C. Guards shall be dispatched only in response to alarms emanating from residential premises, or if to business locations, only during nonbusiness hours.
- D. Guards shall not be dispatched to robbery alarms.

(Res. No. 70 94-95 §1 (part))