## 40. REGULATIONS OF SECURITY ALARMS*:*

### 40.1 DEFINITIONS:

**40.1.1** **"Alarm Business"** means a business by any individual, partnership, corporation or other entity of selling, leasing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving or installing any alarm system or causing to be sold, leased, maintained, serviced, repaired, altered, replaced, moved or installed, any alarm system in or on any building, structure or facility.

**40.1.2** **"Alarm System"** means any assembly of equipment, mechanical or electrical, arranged to signal, audible or otherwise, the occurrence of any illegal entry, fire or any other activity requiring urgent attention and to which police are expected to respond, including both silent and audible alarms.

**40.1.3** **"Alarm User"** means the person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind, in control of any building, structure or facility wherein an alarm system is maintained.

**40.1.4** **"Automatic Dialing Device"** is a device which is interconnected to a telephone line and is programmed to select a predetermined telephone number and transmit by voice message or code signal an emergency message indicating a need for emergency response.

**40.1.5** **"False Alarm"** means an alarm signal eliciting a response by police when a situation requiring a response by police does not in fact exist; but does not include an alarm signal caused by violent conditions of nature or other extraordinary circumstances not reasonably subject to control by the alarm business operator or alarm user.

**40.1.6** **"Sheriff"** means the Sheriff of Clatsop County or his designated representative. (Ordinance 89-8, Sec. 3)

### 40.2 ALARM USER PERMITS:

**40.2.1** Every alarm user shall obtain an Alarm User Permit, for each system the user intends to install in the unincorporated areas of Clatsop County. Such permit shall be obtained from an alarm business or from the Clatsop County Sheriff's Department.

**40.2.2** The owner of all alarm systems existing the date of passage of this Ordinance shall have sixty (60) days to obtain a permit.

**40.2.3** No fee or other changes shall be required to obtain this

permit for any application made prior to December 31, 1989 for any alarm system in use on or prior to that date. Thereafter the fee for each permit shall be $25.00, payable to Clatsop County and mailed to the Clatsop County Sheriff with the Alarm User Permit Application.

**40.2.4** All alarm businesses shall, upon the sale of any alarm system for use within Clatsop County, require the purchase to complete and sign an Alarm User Permit. The alarm business shall retain a copy of the permit and mail the original to the Clatsop County Sheriff's Department, together with a check for $25.00. The Clatsop County Sheriff shall supply the alarm business with the appropriate permit forms.

**40.2.5** The alarm user shall report to the Clatsop County Sheriff in writing, any changes in the information on the permit within fifteen (15) days of the change.

**40.2.6** An Alarm User Permit shall be good only for the calendar year in which it is issued and must be renewed by February 1 of the following year to remain in effect; provided that any permit applied for prior to February 1, 1990 shall be valid until February 1, 1991; provided however that any permit applied for on or after October 1 of any given year shall be considered valid for the subsequent calendar year. Renewal shall be accomplished by submitting the same application required for an Alarm User Permit together with a required fee of $25.00 to the Clatsop County Sheriff no later than February 1 annually. (Ordinance 89-8, Sec. 4)

**40.3 AUTOMATIC DIALING DEVICES RESTRICTED:**

**40.3.1** It is unlawful for any person to program an automatic dialing device to select any telephone line assigned to the Clatsop County Sheriff's Department, including 9-1-1. It is also unlawful for an alarm user to fail to disconnect any such device within twelve (12) hours of receipt of a written notice from the Clatsop County Sheriff's Department.

**40.3.2** Within sixty (60) days after the effective date of this Ordinance, all existing automatic telephone dialing devices programmed to select a Clatsop County Sheriff's Department telephone number shall be disconnected or reprogrammed. (Ordinance 89-8, Sec. 5)

**40.4 RESTRICTIONS ON AUDIBLE ALARMS**:

**40.4.1** It is unlawful for any person to use an alarm system which emits an audible sound similar to the siren sound made by police, fire, ambulance or other emergency vehicles.

**40.4.2** It is unlawful for any person to use an alarm system which

emits an audible sound for longer than fifteen (15) minutes upon activation. (Ordinance 89-8, Sec. 6)

**40.5 PENALTIES-HEARINGS**:

**40.5.1 (This subsection repealed by Ordinance 96-15)**

**40.5.2 (This subsection repealed by Ordinance 96-15)**

**40.5.3 (this subsection repealed by Ordinance 96-15)**

**40.5.4 (This subsection repealed by Ordinance 96-15)**

**40.5.5 (This subsection repealed by Ordinance 96-15)**

**40.5.6 (This subsection repealed by Ordinance 96-15)**

**40.5.7** In the event that an alarm user fails to obtain or renew a permit and/or fails to pay any fine assessed herein or otherwise fails to comply with an Order of the Sheriff and/or Board of Commissioners, the County shall be under no obligation to acknowledge or in any way respond to any alarm calls received until the fine has been paid and/or a permit obtained. No permit may be issued to a person until all fines assessed against the person have been paid.

**40.5.8** No governmental unit shall be subject to the provisions of Section 40.4 of this Ordinance or be required to pay a permit fee. Governmental unit shall mean any county, state or federal government or any district located in whole or in part in Clatsop County. (Ordinance 89-8, Sec. 7)

**40.6 RESPONSE TO ALARM**:

**40.6.1** Upon arrival at the place of the alarm, the responding officer shall make a visual inspection to determine if entry to the premises has been made. If entry has been made, the officer shall check the premises for unauthorized occupants. If the premises are found secure or if entry has been determined but no occupants found on the premises, the responding officer shall so notify the Sheriff's Department. Thereafter, the responding officer shall be under no obligation to remain at the premises. Nor shall Clatsop County, the Sheriff, its officers, employees or agents be liable for any damage alleged to have occurred after the officer leaves the premises. It shall be the responsibility of the alarm user to discontinue any audible alarm. (Ordinance 89-8, Sec. 8)

**40.7 LIABILITY**:

**40.7.1** Clatsop County has limited resources and staff. Clatsop County cannot and does not warrant that its officers will respond to all alarms received. Response and response time will depend upon officer availability. The person or alarm service monitor reporting an alarm shall be advised when an officer can be expected to arrive. However such persons will also be advised that subsequent emergency calls may force the responding officer elsewhere, delaying or preventing his response altogether. Neither Clatsop County, the Sheriff, its officers, employees or agents shall be held liable for failure to respond to a report of an alarm. (Ordinance 89-8, Sec. 9)

**40.8 CONFIDENTIALITY; STATISTICS**:

**40.8.1** All information submitted in compliance with this Ordinance shall be held in the strictest confidence and shall be deemed public record exempt from disclosure pursuant to state statute. Any violation of confidentiality shall be deemed a violation of this Ordinance. The Sheriff shall be charged with the sole responsibility for the maintenance of all records of any kind whatsoever under this Ordinance.

**40.8.2** Subject to the requirements of confidentiality, the Sheriff shall develop and maintain statistics having the purpose of assisting alarm system evaluation for use by members of the public. (Ordinance 89-8, Sec. 10)

**40.9 ALLOCATION OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES**:

**40.9.1** All fees, fines and forfeitures of bail collected pursuant to this ordinance shall be general fund revenue of Clatsop County. (Ordinance 89-8, Sec. 11)

**40.10 COORDINATION WITH CITY PERMITS**:

**40.10.1** Alarms located within the City limits of any municipality shall not be required to obtain a permit from Clatsop County. (Ordinance 89-8, Sec. 12)