

**City of San Buenaventura, California**  
Ordinance Chapter No 6.350  
ROBBERY AND BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS  
(EXTRACT)

*The Ordinance took effect on June 10, 1991, and was updated in December 1999.*

On September 8, 1992, the Ventura Police Department began implementing the False Alarm Program. This program is designed to establish standards and controls for the various types of alarm devices requiring a police response. There is a service charge imposed when an alarm system emits more than three (3) false alarms during any successive twelve (12) month period. This service charge, (\$180), is a method for the City to recover its costs as a result of officers dispatched and responding to excessive false alarms.

This is an overview of the Robbery and Burglar Alarm Ordinance. A detailed copy may be obtained at the Ventura Police Department.

**Section 6.350.050 – Alarm System Permit.** Unless exempted under this chapter, no person shall install or cause to be installed an alarm system, or use or maintain at premises under his/her ownership or control any operative alarm system, without first applying for and receiving a permit in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Any alarm system installed prior to the effective date of this Chapter shall be exempt for the requirement of obtaining a permit until the first activation of that alarm which causes a response by the Police Department.

**Section 6.350.060 – Exemptions.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to alarms affixed to motor vehicles, boats, or public coin telephones.

**Section 6.350.120 – Correction of application or registration information.** Whenever any change occurs relating to the written information required on the permit application, the permittee shall give written notice of such change to the city licensing division within ten days of the change.

**Section 6.350.130 – Alarm Systems Standards.** All alarms and appurtenant equipment shall meet or exceed the following standards:

1. Deactivation and Reset Devices. Every audible alarm system installed after the effective date of this chapter, and every audible alarm system requiring an alarm system permit under this chapter, shall have a timing device which will automatically deactivate the audible alarm within thirty (30) minutes from the time the audible sound is initiated.
2. Emergency Power Supply. All alarm systems installed after the effective date of this chapter shall be equipped with an uninterrupted power supply in such a manner that the failure or interruption of normal utility electricity will not activate the alarm or deactivate the system. The emergency power supply must be capable of at least four (4) hours of operation. Any alarm system installed prior to the effective date of this chapter shall add said emergency power supply unit if said system generates four or more false alarms in a 12- month period.
3. Automatic Dialing Device. No alarm system shall consist of an automatic telephone dialing device or attachment that automatically selects any city department, or telephone company

operator, and then reproduces any prerecorded message to report a burglary, robbery, or any other emergency of any nature.

**Section 6.350.160 – False Alarms.** If an alarm system emits more than three (3) false alarms during any successive twelve (12) month period, a service charge established from time to time by the City Council will be charged for the fourth false alarm, and an equal charge for each subsequent false alarm. However, any senior citizen who is sixty (60) or more years old shall only be charged a service charge of \$5 for the fourth false alarm, and an additional \$5 for each subsequent false alarm within the twelve (12) month period, to which the Police Department responds.

If multiple false alarms occur at the permittee's premises during any twenty-four (24) hour period, all alarms during that period shall be considered as one false alarm.

**Section 6.350.170 – Suspension of an Alarm Permit.** The alarm system permit may be suspended as provided in Section 6.350.180 for a 15-day period due to any of the following circumstances:

1. For violating any provisions of this chapter.
2. For failure to pay service charges billed pursuant to this chapter.
3. When the permittee's alarm activates six false alarms during any consecutive twelve (12) month period.

**Section 6.350.190 – Revocation.** A permit issued pursuant to this Chapter may be revoked by action of the city after a hearing is conducted as is provided in Section 6.350.180, if there have been two suspensions of the same permit within a twelve (12) month period and there is a subsequent false alarm within that same twelve (12) month period.

For a complete copy of this ordinance or to refer to questions concerning Robbery or Burglar Alarms, please call:

**Ventura Police Department**  
***Alarm Coordinator***  
**(805) 339-4459**