

False Fire Alarm Billing Program

The Glendale Fire Department responds to nearly 1,000 false fire alarms every year. Each response involves the rapid deployment of firefighters responding to a “Code 3”.

Fire engines and fire trucks responding “code 3” through busy streets, is an unavoidable risk, but when the call turns out to be a false alarm, such risk was unnecessary and should have been avoided.

Each false alarm exposes Fire Department personnel and equipment to unnecessary wear and tear and wastes money.

A real emergency could be occurring while firefighters are dispatched to a false alarm which can cause needless delay.



Fire alarm systems are an important tool for protecting lives and property, and they need to be maintained properly. In an effort to curb the incidence of false alarms, the Glendale Fire Department has instituted a system to bill the owner of any property that experiences three (3) or more false alarms during any 1-7 year period of time. The amount of the bill graduates with the frequency of false alarms occurring at a site as follows:

During any 1-year period	Amount of Fee
1 st False Alarm	No Fee
2 nd False Alarm	No Fee
3 rd False Alarm	See City Wide Fee Schedule
4 th False Alarm	See City Wide Fee Schedule
Each Subsequent False Alarm	See City Wide Fee Schedule



Property owners will be issued an invoice within 60 days of a 3rd or subsequent false alarm, and payment is required within 60 days of the invoice date. Failure to remit payment may result in an additional fee.

The purpose of the fee is to encourage property owners to maintain their fire alarm systems in a manner that reduces or eliminates false fire alarms, and builds confidence in people who hear a fire alarm to believe that an actual fire emergency is occurring. Properties which do not experience false alarms will not receive a bill.

If you would like more information regarding the City of Glendale’s false fire alarm billing program, or if you would like to learn more about the proper maintenance, testing and certification of your fire alarm system, please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at (818)548-4810.