



**North
Battleford**



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Free False Alarm Responses Eliminated Effective October 1, 2015

False alarms have been on the rise for many years throughout Canada costing thousands of dollars for these unnecessary responses and becoming a concern for emergency services. We are no different in the City of North Battleford and have experienced an annual increase over the last five years. “It is time to address the issue to reduce this additional expense to our citizens, “ stated Director of Protective Services/Fire Chief Albert Headrick.

There is an expense associated with responding to false alarms, which includes the unnecessary wear and tear on our equipment. A conservative estimate to replace a Fire Engine ranges from \$420,000 to \$550,000. It is all specialized equipment for the service levels we provide. The estimated cost to respond to a fire alarm with one engine and a compliment of three to four personnel would be from \$873.00 SGI productive rate to \$1,000.00 in relation to our established fee for services bylaw.

To reduce the number of false alarm responses we have established a new fee structure whereby the first one will no longer be free of charge. If residents take simple precautions, they can assist us in this endeavor for the betterment of the community as a whole. The following guidelines have been developed to assist the department in making an informed decision about the alarm responses and provides our citizens a benchmark to follow.

“Preventable False Alarm” means the activation of a fire alarm system by the unnecessary or needless release of smoke, heat, dust, or other airborne particulate, and shall include activation by deficient or defective system components.

Example: Unattended pot on stove, burnt toast, etc.

“Unwarranted False Alarm” means the activation of a fire alarm system by avoidable actions of a building owner, their agent, contractor, tenant, employee, or any other person legally permitted to enter or occupy the building.

Example: Testing & Inspecting Fire Protection Systems (Failure to notify alarm service provider by owner, contractor and fire department of repair, testing and or inspection being conducted on your fire alarm, sprinkler system etc.).

New False Alarm Incident Rates

- i) First false alarm \$200
 - ii) Second false alarm within a consecutive twelve month period \$500
 - iii) Third or subsequent false alarm within a consecutive twelve month period \$750
- per occurrence

The City of North Battleford Fire Department wishes to work collectively with our citizens to reduce the number of unnecessary false alarm responses and the costs associated with these responses.

For more information:

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