



**North
Battleford**



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 3, 2015

Steps to Reducing False Alarms

Effective October 1st, 2015, the City of North Battleford will be eliminating the free false alarm response. 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. Residents can take simple precautions, to eliminate this unnecessary wear and tear, by following the eight tips listed below.

1. **Notify** your alarm company before testing or repairing the system.
2. **Know how to cancel a false alarm.** If your alarm goes off and you are absolutely certain you know what caused the alarm, notify the alarm company immediately. Have your alarm company's phone number handy. If there is any doubt as to whether there really is a fire, don't take chances – let the Fire Department check it out.
3. **Dust and smoke alarm/detectors don't get along.** Dust looks just like smoke to a smoke detector. If you are spray painting, sanding floors, installing new drywall or doing anything else that produces visible dust, there is a good chance that you will set off a smoke alarm/detector. Cover and seal the device to protect from dust. **Important that you uncover when done for the day for protection coverage.** Check with your alarm company before doing anything which will produce dust. TIP: Use your vacuum cleaner to clean your smoke alarm/detectors monthly. Even ordinary household dust can build up over time and cause false alarms.
4. **Fire alarm systems need regular testing and maintenance.** You expect your fire alarm system to work when it's needed and not to cause false alarms. The only way to make that happen is to have your system tested and maintained by a technician.
5. **Deal only with qualified, licensed professionals.** The fire code requires any company which works on a fire alarm and sprinkler systems to hold a special license.
6. **Fire alarm equipment must be installed properly.** Smoke alarm/detectors do not belong in kitchens, garages, attics, or outside bathrooms with showers. Heat detectors can be used to

protect these areas without false alarms or photo-electric alarms can minimize the likelihood of false alarms.

7. ***Treat your system with care.*** Wiring and detection devices can be accidentally damaged and false alarms can result. Notify your alarm company of any damage and never attempt to repair the system yourself.

8. ***Make sure the alarm company has your contact information.*** For many calls we respond to the 'responsible party' information is not available. Once enroute, the Fire Department is obligated to attend the scene even if it has been confirmed on site false alarm. So cancellation prior to response is important. If no one is on site, the alarm company needs your contact information to inform you of the alarm and the Fire Department might require your assistance gaining entrance into the building.

For more information:

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