ALARM PERMIT FAQ'S

Harris County requires all buildings (residence/business) with an active alarm system to register and obtain a permit for that system.

Q: **Why do I need an alarm permit?**

A: *Rules Governing the Operation and Regulation of Alarm Systems in Harris County, Texas:*

Section 2. Permit Requirements. (a) Unless otherwise allowed by law, no person shall operate, cause to be operated, or allow the operation of an alarm system or otherwise use an alarm system in unincorporated Harris County, Texas unless such person has been issued a valid and unrevoked Permit under regulations for such use of that alarm system, including each alarm system feature with which it is equipped.

This was created in order reduce the number of false alarms dispatched to law enforcement agencies. Nationwide approximately 99% of burglar alarms are false. Harris County wants to reduce the number of false alarms that personnel respond to in order to utilize Harris County resources for actual emergencies.

Q: **How much does an alarm permit cost?**

A: A ***RESIDENTIAL PERMIT*** is **$40.00**. A ***Business Permit*** is **$100.00**.

Q: **I am a senior citizen over 65 years of age. Do you have any discounts?**

A: YES! Senior citizens 65 years and older are not required to pay for permits, but still need to register their system. Send in a copy of your driver's license along with the application permit. ***NOTE: This is for residential alarm systems only.***

Q: **What happens if I don't get a permit?**

A: With each unpermitted alarm the residence/business owner is fined **$420.00**. Also, you are subject to a Class C Citation that could cost anywhere from $250-$500.

Q: **I have a current alarm permit, why did I receive a bill for $100.00?**

A: With your residential permit you get **one (1) free false alarm *each* permit year**.

- 2nd False Alarm = **$100.00**
- 3rd False Alarm = **$200.00**
- 4 or more False Alarms = **$420.00 *EACH***

For all ***BUSINESSES***, regardless of permit status, the fee for each false alarm is ***$420.00***.

Q: **Do I need to cancel my permit if I sell my home?**

A: YES! You must notify Harris County Alarm Detail the home has been sold. You must cancel your permit or any false alarm fines/fees could be accrued in your name.

Q: **Does my permit transfer to my new address?**

A: NO! You must register for a new permit at your new address.

ALARM PERMIT FAQ'S

Q: I just bought a home with an active alarm system, what do I do?

A: Contact Harris County Alarm Detail at 713-755-4600. The previous homeowner will need to cancel their contract with the alarm company. If you choose to keep the alarm system active you will need to contract with an alarm company of your choice. You will also need to obtain a permit through Harris County in your name.

Q: I own rental properties with active alarm systems installed. What are my responsibilities and what are my renter's responsibilities?

A: The property owner is ultimately responsible for his/her alarm system. Fines/fees are generated in the property owners name unless otherwise designated. To ensure the renter is responsible for alarm calls for service, the following should be followed:

- Ensure each renter is listed as a key holder with the alarm company.
- Ensure each renter obtains an alarm permit in their name.
- When a renter leaves you will need to remove their name as a key holder and obtain a permit in your name until another renter moves in.

Q: How do I register my alarm system and obtain an alarm permit?

A: Contact Harris County Alarm Detail at 713-755-4600 for more information, or go to https://www.hcsoalarmpermit.com and follow these steps;

1. On the homepage of this website, select "Register Online"
2. Complete all fields-Please note that all fields indicated in ***red*** are required
3. Once you have entered your payment information, you can print your payment confirmation if desired.
4. Provide your permit number to you alarm monitoring company

NOTE: You can pay online or mail the application in with your payment to our physical address: 9418 Jensen Dr. Ste. A. Houston, TX 77093-6821.

Q: How can I prevent false alarms?

A: Go to https://www.hcsoalarmpermit.com to see Prevention Tips.

FOR ANY OTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US AT 713-755-4600