

# Strathcona County Emergency Services False Alarm Response Report

Priorities Committee Meeting  
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Presenters: Fire Chief Iain Bushell and Deputy Chief Bob Scott

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# Fire Alarm Systems are Required

- Alberta Building Code (ABC):
  - Considers building size, use and occupant load.
- Alberta Fire Code (AFC):
  - Requires maintenance of the fire protection systems.

# Fire Alarm Maintenance

- Alberta Fire Code:
  - Requires fire protection installations be maintained in operating condition.
  - Identifies building owners or their agent as the party responsible to carry out provisions of the AFC.

# False Alarm Activations

- May occur in any building with an alarm or sprinkler system – residential, commercial, or industrial.
- False alarms are caused by:
  - human actions/activity
  - mechanical (electrical or hydraulic)
  - lack of maintenance
  - negligence
  - malicious activity

# 2015 Response Statistics

- 557 false alarm calls
  - 227 commercial
  - 330 residential
- Of those, 164 were maintenance related alarms requiring Fire Inspector follow up.
- SCES Standard Operating Procedure requires that a response is dispatched to every alarm call to ensure there is no danger to life safety or property.

# False Alarm Management Program

- Education
  - Fire inspections
  - Education and public awareness
    - Fire inspectors - alarm response follow-up
    - Newspaper ads
    - County website
- Incentive to maintain system (deterrence)
  - Typical fine starts at \$250 for repeat false alarms
  - Potential bill up to \$4015 for response

# False Alarm Management Program

- Based on research of bylaws and practices from 10 Alberta municipalities.
- Will determine if false alarm is a maintenance or education issue, or both.
- Includes a review of response information to determine if invoicing is appropriate.

# Feedback and Questions

Thank you