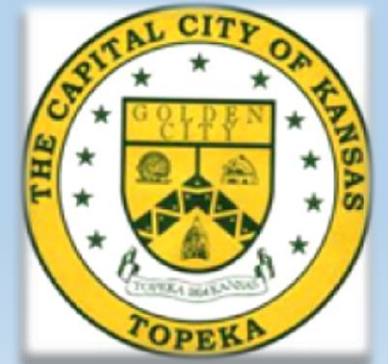




# Commercial False Fire Alarm Ordinance



# Why do we need this Ordinance

- **Over the past three years the Topeka Fire Department has responded, on average, to 964 false alarms per year; with a high of over 1,200 in 2015**
- **Part of the Accreditation Process is a self assessment, which includes how our resources are deployed**

LEADING THE FIRE AND  
EMERGENCY SERVICE TO  
EXCELLENCE





# Why do we need this Ordinance

**2017 Nuisance Alarm Systems (over 11 false alarms)**

**12 Addresses responsible 212 false alarms**

**1 Address responsible for 43 false alarms**

- **2016 Nuisance Alarm Systems (over 11 false alarms)**

**9 Addresses responsible for 140 false alarms**

**1 Address responsible for 46 false alarms**

- **2015 Nuisance Alarm Systems (over 11 false alarms)**

**8 Addresses responsible for 143 false alarms**

**1 Address responsible for 23 false alarms**





# Why Do We Need This Ordinance

- Resources valued between \$300,000.00 - \$750,000.00 have been utilized in the past 3 years responding to these false alarms
- In 2017 approximately 3935 personnel hours were used responding to false alarms
- This type of Ordinance is common in communities around Kansas including Wichita, Salina, Manhattan, Emporia, Overland Park and Leawood



# Why do we need this Ordinance

- **Responding to these false alarms removes companies from their 1<sup>st</sup> alarm response territories**
- **False alarm responses increase wear on equipment and firefighters**
- **Responding to false alarms creates an unjustified risk to the community and emergency responders**

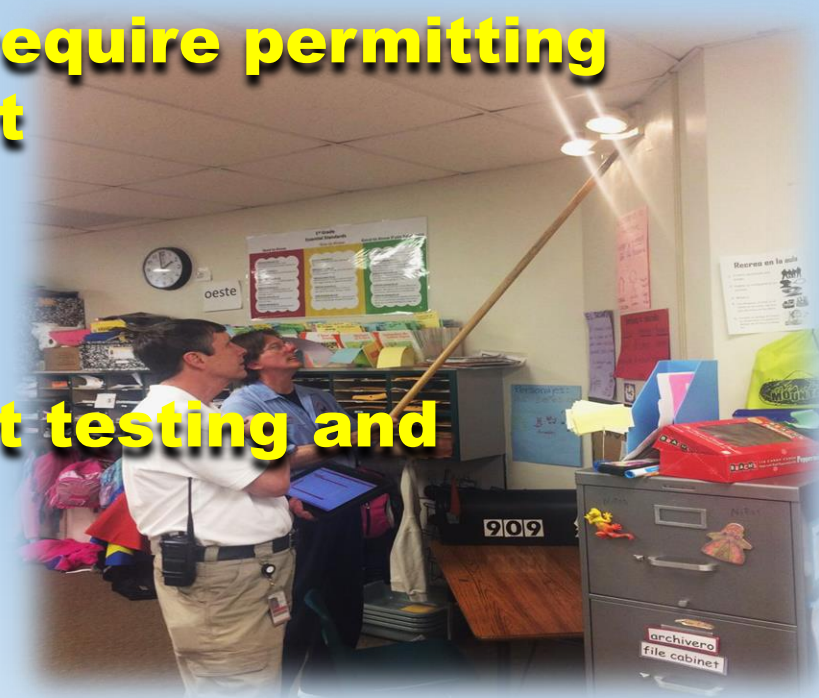


# What are we trying to accomplish

**Reduce the number of false alarms**

## How will this be accomplished

- **Education will be a key component in reducing false alarms**
- **Monitored commercial fire alarms will require permitting with the City of Topeka Fire Department**
- **Permits will be renewed annually**
- **Permitting will require a copy of current testing and maintenance records**








# Enforcement

- **There is grace period for newly installed systems**
- **Systems with more than 3 false alarms per year will result in a violation**
- **Violations will be assessed via a tiered system**
- **Nuisance alarm systems (over 11 false alarms) will be required to have maintenance and inspection by a licensed fire alarm contractor.**



# Permit fees

- **There will be a \$25.00 permit fee**
- **Applications will be required to be renewed annually**
- **\$25.00 renewal fee will be waived if violation occurred during the previous year**



**CITY OF TOPEKA**  
Fire Department  
224 S.E. Jefferson Street  
Topeka, KS 66607-1155  
Tel: (785) 385-4000  
Fax: (785) 385-4030

**Craig C. Duda, Fire Chief**  
www.topeka.org

### Monitored Fire Alarm Permit Application

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is this a Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Facility? \_\_\_\_\_

**Basic Information:**  
General Purpose Use: \_\_\_\_\_ Construction Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Built: \_\_\_\_\_  
Remodeled: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Stories: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Hours: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Employees: \_\_\_\_\_

**Call Back and On Site Contacts:**  
Role: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Role: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Protections: Attach Current Inspection Paperwork with Application**

**Fire Alarm:**  
Alarm Type / Monitoring Company: \_\_\_\_\_



# Violation fee matrix

Per Calendar Year

0-3	No Charge
4-10	\$25.00 per occurrence
11-20	\$50.00 per occurrence
21-30	\$75.00 per occurrence
31-50	\$100.00 per occurrence
51 or more	\$250.00 per occurrence

**Violations may be appealed in accordance with  
TMC 2.145.020.**

# Summary

- **We have a problem with commercial false alarms in our city**
- **False alarms are a drain on the City of Topeka's emergency response resources**
- **Requiring an Operational Permit will ensure that required testing and maintenance is being performed on alarm systems**
- **Passage of this Ordinance will enable us to address the issue through education and enforcement**
- **The end goal is to provide a safer community and reducing false alarms will assist in accomplishing that goal**