



Proposed Amendments to the City of Edmonton Alarm Systems Bylaw

In an effort to reduce the number of false alarms requiring a police response, the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) is considering several amendments to the City of Edmonton's current Alarm Systems Bylaw. As these amendments will impact Edmonton business owners and residents with an alarm system, we are seeking feedback from nearly 15,000 current alarm permit holders.

Each year, the EPS receives more than 6,300 alarm calls for service, of which 98% are false alarms. When an alarm is activated, police officers first try to contact the home or business owner via phone to determine if the alarm is legitimate. If the owner cannot be reached, a police officer may be dispatched to the location.

Under the current Alarm Systems Bylaw, alarm permits have no expiry date. As a result, contact information for the permit holder and/or the associated key holders become out of date, making it difficult for police to reach a home or business owner to verify the emergency.

To address this issue, EPS is proposing that alarm permits be renewed on an annual basis. This will ensure that contact information is kept up to date, which will in turn reduce false alarm responses by police, and the corresponding false alarm penalties issued to home and business owners. The annual permit renewal fee is proposed to be \$15, which is below the average cost of similar permits across Canada. For convenience, permit applications and renewals will be available for completion online.

The \$15 fee will cover the administrative costs of keeping contact information up to date which, as mentioned earlier, will help alarm owners avoid false alarm penalties.

If these Bylaw changes are approved, the EPS is also proposing that one free false alarm be given to every permit holder, to promote education and false alarm awareness without penalization. Once this free alarm is used up, an escalating penalty schedule will be in place, where higher penalties will be assessed after each false alarm.

Please follow the link below to complete a short survey to provide your feedback related to the proposed Bylaw amendments:

<https://www.edmontoninsightcommunity.ca/c/a/5sW7fprHU9XJS2103UBCWX>

This proposal and a summary of your feedback will be presented to Edmonton City Council for consideration in the fall of 2019.

Thank you,

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Edmonton Police Service