

ALARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

Every year, the men & women of the Bedford Fire Department respond to over 200 automatic fire alarms. Many are false alarms, triggered by faulty alarm systems and by homeowner / contractor actions, and are not true emergencies.

The result is that we take unnecessary risks and put ourselves in harm's way while responding.

Please help us to reduce those risks by following the suggestions in this booklet.



CALL STATISTICS

	Fire	EMS	Total
2010 -	429	243	672
2011 -	382	263	645
2012 -	397	234	631
2013 -	346	240	586
2014 -	316	266	582
2015 -	344	263	607

Mission Statement

To provide the residents, merchants and those who pass through the Bedford Village Fire District with the highest degree of fire protection, rescue & emergency medical service and community education in a professional and courteous manner.

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BEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

FALSE ALARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

IN AN
EMERGENCY
IMMEDIATELY
DIAL 911

BEDFORD VILLAGE FIRE DISTRICT



FIRE ALARMS

Our first priority is the safety of the residents of the Bedford Village Fire District and its firefighters / EMTs. At the same time, we are working to educate our residents & businesses on ways to reduce non-emergency calls, so that our crews can be available to respond to situations that are true emergencies. Whenever there is an emergency, we will be there to assist.

If a fire alarm is activated, it is always recommended to immediately call 9-1-1.

Until the cause of the alarm activation can be determined, the Fire Department should be notified for the safety of everyone involved.

Response

We are 100% volunteer staffed. Once a call is received by 9-1-1, the Fire Department is dispatched. This means that our volunteer firefighters & EMT's leave their homes or employment to respond.

Our response to an alarm activation assumes there is an emergency.

FALSE & NUISANCE ALARMS

A **FALSE** fire alarm is the unintentional activation of any fire alarm system by smoke, steam, dust or other catalyst that results in a response by the fire department.

A **NUISANCE** fire alarm is the unintentional activation of any fire alarm system caused by mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, or lack of proper maintenance, resulting in a response by the fire department.

False and Nuisance Alarms:

- ◆ Account for a large percentage of all fire runs in the Bedford Village Fire District;
- ◆ Can take firefighters away from real emergencies;
- ◆ Can desensitize the community to actual fire incidents and lead to neighbors ignoring a sounding alarm;
- ◆ May make you reluctant to use your fire alarm system, thus exposing your home or facility to fire and property damage;
- ◆ Cost volunteer time and taxpayer money.

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ALARM REDUCTION TIPS:

- ◆ **Ensure occupants know the System, Password & Code;**
- ◆ Ensure trusted contractors cover smoke & carbon monoxide detectors in the vicinity of work being done and that they have access to you / your Code and Password in case needed;
- ◆ Have your alarm system serviced annually;
- ◆ Have your alarm system repaired as soon as you detect a problem;
- ◆ Notify your alarm company prior to working on your alarm system — have them put the system on “TEST” before you begin;
- ◆ Replace batteries as soon as you are notified that they are running low;
- ◆ Upgrade old and problematic systems.