



Nuisance false fire alarms

Premises:-

Coral Gables Fire Department has recently responded to a nuisance false fire alarm signal generated by the fire alarm system at the above premises, the incident details are included below:

Date	Time	Inc. No.	Cause

Each year Coral Gables Fire Department responses to approximately 1400 false alarms, many of which are generated by automatic fire detection systems. This high rate of false alarms does have an impact on the operational efficiency of the service exposing the community of Coral Gables to unnecessary risk. To understand the problems false alarms cause we would like you to consider the following points;

- False alarms expose our communities to unnecessary risk as their fire cover may be depleted.
- They put other road users, the public and fire fighters at unnecessary risk when responding under emergency conditions.
- They impose financial burdens on fire authorities in relation to mobilization costs such as salaries of fire fighters, overhead fuel costs, wear and tear of appliances, etc.
- False alarms erode the confidence of the users in the value and reliability of the fire detection systems. Consequently, there is a real danger that in the case of a fire, evacuation of premises could be delayed because of previous false alarm experience.
- Ultimately, they create unnecessary interruptions to your own activities resulting in substantial costs and inconvenience to yourselves.

Following this activation, we now request that you undertake a review of your procedures, and carry out the following to ensure that further incidents are avoided.

System Fault (Power Failure)

Your fire alarm system must be provided with a battery back-up to ensure continuity of the power supply in the event of a failure of the mains supply. Upon an interruption to the mains supply, the change to the battery back-up should be seamless (and vice versa), and not cause a fire signal to be generated. The fact that your system has registered a fire signal, and not simply a fault warning, indicates that there is a fault with the system. You should ensure that your fire alarm engineer attend to this problem immediately.

Subsequent Action

Coral Gables Fire Department actively reviews all nuisance false alarms. When we believe the reliability of the system is open to question or where the management on-site who regulates the activities fails to eliminate the problematic issues from reoccurring the following actions would be taken.

Level 1

- 1) A phone call to further investigate options will be taken and a necessary action plan will be initiated, going forward.
- 2) A visit by a representative of the Coral Gables Fire Prevention Office covering a detailed assessment of your procedures, action plan and notification of the next Response Level.

Level 2

A full Fire Safety Audit will be undertaken if one has not been completed in the previous 12 months and your premises may be subject to a level of enforcement in accordance with the ordinances established within the City of Coral Gables. Enforcement will generally result in the following two areas of activity:

- (a) Informal Notification by which responsible persons are advised of areas of non-compliance and where appropriate, methods of remedy.
- (b) Formal notices, an enforcement notice served on the responsible person with to ensure they are meeting their requirements of maintaining a safe environment under.