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## Alarm Registration Now Required

Harrisonburg, VA – The Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) has been working to reduce the number of false alarms received every day from security systems and recently developed an Alarm Permit Program.

In Harrisonburg, 99% of alarms are false and are diverting manpower away from those who truly have an emergency. Responding to burglary or robbery alarms are dangerous tasks for police officers because they must always assume the alarm is valid and a crime is in progress.

“False alarm” means an alarm dispatch request to the Harrisonburg Police Department, which results in the responding officer finding no evidence of a criminal offense or attempted criminal offense after completing an investigation of the alarm site.

“Our goal for this program is to reduce the number of false alarm activations that would require a police response but also help the community better understand how their systems operate,” explained Lieutenant Chris Rush, HPD’s Criminal Investigations Division.

**All residents and businesses are required to register their alarm systems.** To begin the registration process, simply visit <http://www.cityalarmpermit.com/fams/citizen/city/harrisonburg> or call toll free 1-877-484-7719. This website also contains free training and a copy of the City’s ordinance (Section 5-7-1) on alarm registration.

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