

City of Kirkland Security Alarm Program

History

In 2006, The City of Kirkland Police Department began exploring ways to improve their alarm program. Their false alarm management employee joined FARA and became active in local alarm association. Drawing from other successful ordinances in Washington and the knowledge gained from FARA and ESA, the department crafted an ordinance based on the recommended Best Practices.

Alarm Ordinance

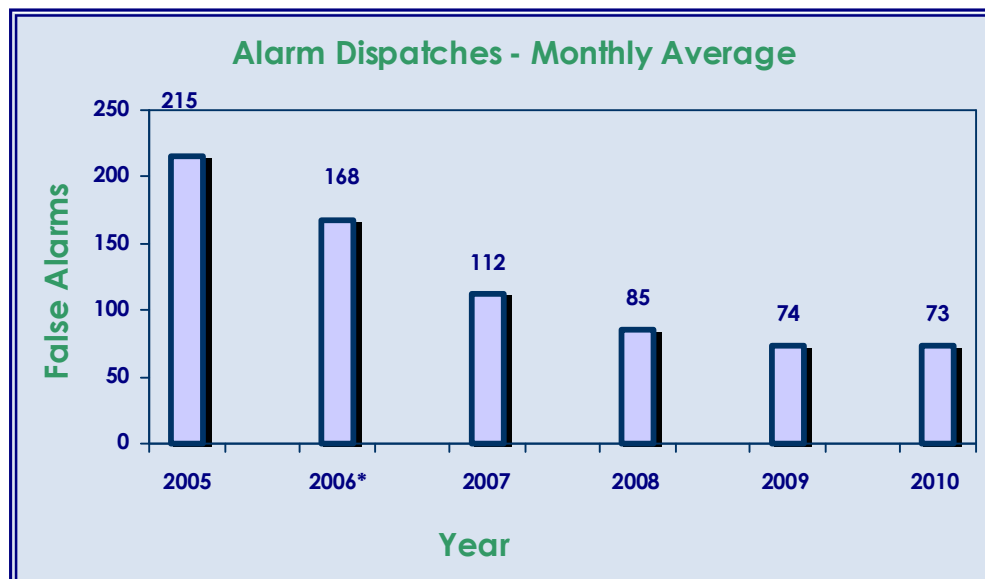
The Kirkland program requires registration of alarm businesses, annual registration of alarm sites, and Enhanced Call Verification. It provides one free response and fines that start at \$50 with the 2nd false alarm, then \$100, \$150, & \$200. Police Response is Suspended with the 6th false alarm. The program is well managed by an on-staff person and ECV is enforced by the 911 center.

Key Points to Reducing Dispatches

- Enhanced call verification (2-call)
- Annual alarm Site Registration
- City Administered – ECV enforced
- One Free Response with escalating false alarm fines
- Registration suspension after six alarms

Successful Results

Kirkland has **reduced false alarms by 66%** from its pre-ordinance level in 2005 (*see graph below*). The police responded to an average of 215 alarms per month in 2005. In 2010 that number had dropped to 73 per month. Their new ordinance went into effect July 1, 2006.



**For more information
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