

Cooke Township Ordinance 2021 - 01
Cooke Township Alarm Ordinance

Section 1
General Provisions

A. Title.

This Ordinance shall be known, and may be cited, as the “Cooke Township Alarm Ordinance.”

B. Purpose.

1. The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish administrative and criminal penalties to reduce false alarms from homes, businesses and other establishments in Cooke Township. Alarms systems that repeatedly send out false alarm signals can pose a significant burden upon emergency responders and are a nuisance that disrupts the peace and tranquility of the Township.

Section 2
Definitions

The following words, terms and phrases shall have the meanings described herein ascribed thereto unless the context clearly indicate a different meaning.

A. ALARM YEAR - An Alarm Year is defined as the twelve-month (12) period prior to the most recent False Alarm for a particular property's alarm system(s).

B. ALARM SYSTEM - Any assembly of equipment arranged to signal the occurrence of a police, fire, hazard or medical emergency requiring urgent attention and to which police, fire or emergency medical personnel are expected to respond.

C. FALSE ALARM

1. An alarm activated in the absence of an emergency, whether willfully or by inadvertence, negligence or unintentional act, including the malfunction of the alarm system, resulting in an emergency response by Law Enforcement, Fire Company or Emergency Medical Services.

2. Multiple alarms within a short time period before the system can be deactivated shall be construed as a single false alarm. A reasonable time period shall be considered not to exceed 12 hours from the time of the first activation in a series of alarms.

D. EMERGENCY COORDINATOR - The duly appointed Township Emergency Coordinator, or his designee.

E. TOWNSHIP - Cooke Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

F. CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER(s) - Duly appointed personnel whose responsibility it is to enforce the ordinances and codes established by the Cooke Township Board of Supervisors.

Section 3

Standards and Applicability

A. Every alarm system installed within the Township that connects to a central monitoring station and/or is audible beyond property boundaries shall be listed by Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc.

B. Every alarm system installed within the Township that connects to a central monitoring station and/or is audible beyond property boundaries shall be equipped with a timing mechanism that will disengage the audible alarm after a maximum of 15 minutes.

C. The standards in this Section do not apply to alarm systems installed prior to this Ordinance. However, alarm systems should be upgraded when practical.

D. This Section does not apply to systems installed on septic tanks.

Section 4

Reporting

A. A property which generates False Alarms shall be reported to the Board of Supervisors by the Emergency Coordinator or Codes Enforcement Officer, or may be reported any other person who becomes aware of the problem.

Section 5

Penalties

A. Property owners with any alarm system generating False Alarms will be given two (2) warnings in any given twelve-month Alarm Year, after which they will be subject to penalties as provided in this Section.

B. The owner of any alarm system that generates False Alarms commits a summary offense and upon conviction thereof before a Magisterial District Judge, be subject to the following penalties for each and every offense, together with costs and attorneys' fees:

Violation	Penalty
First two (2) False Alarms, per property, per Alarm Year	Warning
Third (3rd), fourth (4th) and fifth (5th) False Alarms, per Alarm Year	\$75.00 per alarm
Sixth (6th) False Alarm, per Alarm Year	\$100.00 per alarm
Seventh (7th) False Alarm, per Alarm Year	\$150.00 per alarm
Eight (8) or more False Alarms, per Alarm Year	\$200.00 per alarm

C. Any property owner who violates other provisions of this Ordinance commits a summary offense and shall upon conviction thereof before a Magisterial District Judge, be subject to a fine or penalty of not more than \$50.00, for each and every offense, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

Section 6

Severability

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and if any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance.

DULY ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Cooke Township,
Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, this _____ day of _____, 2021.

TOWNSHIP OF COOKE
CUMBERLAND COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA

PATRICIA A. SANGIALOSI, CHAIRMAN

EDWARD H. STRAYER, VICE CHAIRMAN

DIANE M. BATT, SUPERVISOR

ATTEST:

JANET FRANTZ, SECRETARY