



# COUNTY OF MONTEREY

SHERIFF - CORONER

## TIPS TO REDUCE FALSE ALARMS

1. Do not panic when the alarm is activated! Remember your alarm code. If it is too difficult to remember, then change it to an easier code.
2. Disarm the system per the instructions. Press each number carefully. Use extra care when entering the last number. In some systems, if the code is entered incorrectly, it sends a silent panic signal.
3. Call the alarm company immediately whenever you have accidentally activated a false alarm.
4. All users should have the name and phone number of the alarm company accessible.
5. Make sure that all employees who you have granted access (by giving them a code) to your alarm system know how to properly operate the alarm system/keypad. This includes janitors, gardeners, and housekeepers and construction workers.
6. Call the alarm company if you change a responsible's phone number or are going to test your system, etc.
7. Do not try to beat the system! If you need to re-enter the residence after arming the system, you need to , disarm it and re-arm again upon leaving. Do not rely on the exit delay to give you enough time to get in and out of the house again.
8. Keep the motion detectors clear of insects, spider webs, and excess heat or sunlight. Excess heat can sometimes activate the alarm.
9. Check for drafts that can move plants, curtains, signs, holiday decorations, helium balloons, and anything in the motion sensor areas. Fans, heaters, air conditioners and open windows can all cause drafts which in turn can cause a false alarm activation.
10. Make sure that all doors and windows are closed properly before you set the alarm.
11. Call the alarm company and inform them if you are planning any remodeling or construction, changing phone systems, installing skylights and/or ceiling fans, or spray painting or fumigating.
12. Keep your contact name list current with both the Monterey County Sheriff's Office and your alarm company.
13. The alarm company should replace the control panel every five years.
14. Have your alarm company inspect the system once a year.
15. Upgrade outdated equipment. Older systems are prone to false alarms.
16. Make sure any mechanical problems with your alarm system are repaired right away,