



Washoe County Alarm Ordinance Program



Many citizens in Washoe County have installed burglar alarm systems to help protect their property. In recent years, however, the rise in false alarms has become problematic. In unincorporated Washoe County, more than 99% of all alarms prove to be false. Responding to these alarms is not a prudent use of the limited law enforcement resources available to our community.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office began working with the Washoe County Commissioners to come up with a practical solution. Looking at what the cities of Reno and Sparks had done, the Washoe County Commissioners approved a revised alarm ordinance on September 22, 2009.

Washoe County's next step was to locate a company that could help administer the Alarm Ordinance Program on behalf of the county.

Washoe County subsequently entered into an agreement with ATB Services, an alarm tracking and billing company, located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. ATB's program has proven to be successful in other jurisdictions and has reduced the number of false alarms in Reno and Sparks.

ATB's service goes beyond the permitting and registration of individual alarms and the collection of false alarm fees. They also provide toll-free citizen support, offer educational brochures and false alarm classes.

The permit fee that is collected by ATB for alarm users has been designed to pay a portion of the costs incurred by ATB to manage this program at no cost to the county. The permit fee is directed to alarm users.

In addition, false alarm fees are intended to reduce the amount of false alarm calls. This helps to cover the costs of law enforcement's response to a false alarm and allows the Sheriff's Office to maintain its service to all citizens of Washoe County.

Contact information for additional facts about this program:

ATB Services
866-950-9907
www.atbservicesonline.com/washoe

Washoe County
775-328-2013
www.washoecounty.us

Washoe County Sheriff's Office
775-328-3001
www.washoesheriff.com