

## WHAT IS A FIRE ALARM SYSTEM?

A fire alarm system is a combination of mechanisms or devices designed to alert occupants of a building of an emergency. It may be local or connected to or monitored by a central alarm system, but must include the following devices:



1. a system control centre or another power system;



2. a manual station;



3. an audible signal device\*.

\* Sample model, other types exists.

Any security system with at least one fire detection component is also a fire alarm system.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS BY-LAW REFERS ONLY TO FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS THAT ARE CONNECTED OR NOT TO A REMOTE MONITORING STATION AND DOES NOT CONCERN RESIDENTIAL SMOKE ALARMS.

## WHAT IS A FALSE FIRE ALARM?

An alarm is false when it is triggered unnecessarily through the **improper installation of a fire alarm system, an equipment malfunction, faulty maintenance, inadequate handling, or any other type of negligence likely to interfere with its operation.**

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A FIRE ALARM SYSTEM?

The owner of an immovable, or the fraction of an immovable held in divided co-ownership, to which the fire alarm system is connected and, where the intervention of the Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal may not be associated with any unit in particular, the syndicate of co-owners of the immovable held in divided co-ownership.

It is important to note that according to article 96 of the Loi sur les compétences municipales (chapter C-47.1), all fees owed to the municipality following its response to matters related to this law are added to municipal taxes if the debt is linked to a building and if the debtor is the owner of this building.

## FEES RELATING TO FALSE FIRE ALARMS

Fees will be charged to building owners when the Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal will have been called to respond to a second false fire alarm for a same building.

Owners or co-owners of buildings with fire alarm systems are responsible for the maintenance of their equipment and must ensure they are in good working order. The SIM is aware however that anyone can experience a sudden problem with equipment. Consequently, no fees will be charged for a first false fire alarm. The goal of this policy is to give owners the chance to identify and repair the cause of the unnecessary activation of their fire alarm system.

### BY-LAW RCG 08-035

The by-law providing for certain false alarm measures to improve fire prevention and public safety, as well as the current fee schedule, is available on our Web site at: [www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/sim](http://www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/sim)

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM (EXTRACT OF BY-LAW RCG 08-035, ARTICLE 5)

In order to help eliminate false fire alarms, you may be eligible for the reimbursement program that has been put in place by the SIM. According to the by-law, the “owner who, after receipt of one or more invoices, incurs costs for the installation of a new fire alarm system or the repair of the fire alarm system that set off a false alarm, may apply for a refund of part of the costs incurred, by completing the form provided for that purpose, after having fully paid all invoices.”

An owner may file an application for refund within 90 days after the date of issue of the last invoice received.

The application for refund contains a proof of payment of costs incurred for the installation or the repair of the fire alarm system.

After determining that the fire alarm system works properly, the Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal pays the following amounts to the owner, whichever is lesser:

- 90% of costs incurred for the installation or the repair of the fire alarm system;
- 90% of the amount of the invoice or the total of invoices received for a false alarm within the last 12 months before the last false alarm, including the amount of the last invoice.

**THE SAFETY OF YOUR TENANTS IS PRICELESS!**





## WHEN THE ALARM RINGS: REACT!

As soon as you hear a fire alarm, react immediately and evacuate the building without delay, because your safety and that of your loved ones is at stake. In case of a fire, every second counts because **your life is in danger!**

Even if your alarm system has been activated several times for no reason, always evacuate the building quickly because **your life may be in danger.** Inform your building owner that you insist the system be checked and maintained properly. According to the law, it is his or her responsibility to make sure the system is functioning properly.



Should you wish to contact a fire prevention officer regarding actions to take in order to prevent unnecessary activation of your fire alarm system, please call **514-872-3800** or visit our Web site at:

[www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/sim](http://www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/sim) 

In case of fire, don't hesitate:

**CALL 911!**

**OUR PRIORITY, YOUR SAFETY!**



Division des communications et des relations avec les médias, décembre 2010

## WHEN THE ALARM RINGS: REACT!



In order to improve public safety, the Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal implements a **new by-law concerning false fire alarms.**



Each year, the Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal (SIM) responds to approximately 16,000 false fire alarms. False fire alarms cost the residents of the agglomeration of Montréal a lot of money by causing unnecessary responses of fire apparatus and firefighters, making them unavailable for real fires. People also become less likely to evacuate their homes after several false alarms.

In order to improve public safety, the agglomeration of Montréal adopted, in September 2008, a municipal by-law aimed at reducing the number of false fire alarms on its territory. Ville de Montréal is asking for the cooperation of all of its inhabitants to help the fire department fulfill its mission: save lives and protect property. In order to ensure the safety of all concerned, it is important that everyone understands the impact of false fire alarms.

### THE GOALS OF THIS NEW PROCEDURE ARE:

- Maintain and increase the level of readiness of occupants of a building to evacuate the premises despite a tendency to stay put after several false fire alarms;
- Make sure personnel and equipment are available to answer all real fire alarms and emergency medical calls;
- Reduce the costs related to unnecessary responses of fire apparatus.

## MONTREAL IS NOT ALONE

In the last few years, a good number of municipalities in Québec and elsewhere in Canada have adopted such by-laws. Notably, the City of Toronto has a by-law regarding false fire alarms since 1998, in order to reduce the number of false alarms the department has to respond to on a daily basis.

Montréal 