

Title 5 ► Chapter 4

Regulation of Private Alarm Systems

5-4-1	Title
5-4-2	Declaration of Purpose
5-4-3	Definitions
5-4-4	Administrative Rules
5-4-5	Automatic Dialing Devices
5-4-6	Direct Connections to the Police Department
5-4-7	Testing
5-4-8	Notification
5-4-9	Fee for Answering Alarms
5-4-10	Village Liability
5-4-11	Permits for Private Alarm Systems
5-4-12	Revocation of Permits

Sec. 5-4-1 Title.

This Chapter shall be known as the Village of Merrilan Alarm Systems Ordinance.

Sec. 5-4-2 Declaration of Purpose.

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide minimum standards and regulations applicable to burglar, fire and holdup alarm systems, alarm business and alarm users. Both society in general and public safety in particular will be aided by providing a useful and usable system of private security which properly balances quick response by law enforcement with minimization of law enforcement time spent on alarms which are false or otherwise not the intended function of private security systems.

Sec. 5-4-3 Definitions.

Within this Chapter, the following terms, phrases and words and their derivations have the meaning given herein.

- (l) **Central Station.** An office to which remote alarm and supervisory signaling devices are connected, where operators supervise the circuits.
- (m) **Primary Trunk Line.** A telephone line leading directly into the dispatch center of the Police or Fire Department that is for the purpose of handling emergency calls on a person-to-person basis and which is identified as such by a specific number included among the emergency numbers listed in the telephone directory or numbers in sequence therewith.
- (n) **Subscriber.** A person who buys or leases or otherwise obtains an alarm system and thereafter contracts with or hires an alarm business to monitor and/or service the alarm system.

Sec. 5-4-4 Administrative Rules.

The Village Marshal shall promulgate such rules as may be necessary for the implementation of this Chapter. Such rules shall require the approval of the Village Board and shall be open to inspection by the public.

Sec. 5-4-5 Automatic Dialing Devices.

No person shall interconnect any automatic dialing device to a Police or Fire Department primary trunk line. No person shall permit such devices, which were installed prior to the effective date of this Chapter, to remain interconnected from any property owned or controlled by that person. Such devices may be connected to a central station or an answering service. Relaying messages so received to the Police or Fire Department shall only be done person to person on the telephone line.

Sec. 5-4-6 Direct Connections to the Police Department.

Direct connections to the Police or Fire Department are prohibited, but may be authorized pursuant to the direct connection policies of each Department, a copy of which is on file with the Village Marshal and Fire Chief.

Sec. 5-4-7 Testing.

- (a) No alarm business or alarm system designed to transmit emergency messages to the Police Department shall be tested or demonstrated without prior notification and approval of the Police Department dispatcher. Alarm businesses or alarm system owners or lessors will be advised on proper test procedure.

This Subsection is intended to impose a strict liability on the person, business, corporation or other entity responsible for alarm connection to either the police alarm panel or to alarm receiving firm to which the Police or Fire Department have responded and shall be applied regardless of the cause of the false alarm excepting those alarms excluded from the definition of "False Alarm." Failure to pay such administrative charge(s) in and of itself shall constitute a violation of this Section, and such charge(s) shall be collectible as a forfeiture upon prosecution and conviction thereof, together with an additional forfeiture(s) which may be imposed under the next Subsection (d) hereof for violation of this Section for allowing or maintaining condition(s) or act(s) violative of the intent of this Section of eliminating and minimizing the occurrence of false alarms, together with costs of prosecution.

- (d) **Other Violations.** Any person, corporation or other entity violating this Chapter in any manner, other than for collection of unpaid administrative charges treated in the preceding Subsection (a) of this Section, shall be subject to forfeiture as provided in Section 1-1-6 of this Code. When any premises located in the Village is owned, leased or occupied by two (2) or more persons as joint tenants, tenants in common, joint lessees, or in any other manner, each person shall see that the provisions of this Chapter are complied with, and each person may be subjected to a penalty on violation of this Section.
- (e) **Default of Payment for Forfeiture and/or Costs.** On default of payment of forfeiture and/or costs under the immediately preceding Subsections (c) and/or (d), such person or responsible officer of the violating corporation or other entity shall be confined in the county jail until the same be paid but not to exceed a length of time specified by the court which length of time shall not exceed six (6) months. Upon nonpayment of the fee, the amount due may be placed on the tax roll as a special charge pursuant to Sec. 66.60(16), Wis. Stats.

Sec. 5-4-10 Village Liability.

The Village of Merrilan shall be under no duty or obligation to a subscriber or to any other person concerning any provision of this Chapter, including, but not limited to, any defects in an alarm system or any delays in transmission or response to any alarm; however, this in no way shall be construed that it is not the proper function of law enforcement to respond to alarms.

Sec. 5-4-11 Permits for Private Alarm Systems.

- (a) **Permit Required.** A permit is required for each private alarm system on premises within the Village. There shall be a permit fee as established in Section 1-3-1.
- (b) **Interior Alarms.** A permit under this Chapter is not required for an alarm system which gives a signal, visual or audible or both, solely within the interior of the building in which it is located.