

CHAPTER 53

False Alarms

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Sec. 53.01 False Report of an Emergency.

No person may communicate the existence of an emergency or otherwise request the assistance of a public safety officer if that person does not have a good faith belief that there is a basis in fact for the communication.

Sec. 53.02 False Alarms.

No false alarm for assistance by a public safety officer may be made by a defective or improperly functioning alarm system. If such a false alarm occurs, the owner of the alarm system is deemed to have violated the terms of this section.

Sec. 53.03 Definitions.

For the purposes of this Chapter:

- (1) "**Public safety officer**" means any police officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, marshal, fire fighter, emergency medical technician, ambulance driver, or hazardous materials team member.

Sec. 53.04 Enforcement.

- (1) **False Report of an Emergency.** Any person who falsely reports an emergency as described above shall forfeit not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$2,000.00 for each violation. In addition, such person may be required to reimburse the public safety agency for the actual costs of the public safety response.
- (2) **False Alarms.** Any owner of a system that reports a false alarm as described above shall forfeit not less than \$50.00 for the first offense, not less than \$150.00 for the second offense, and not less than \$250.00 for the third and any subsequent offense. In addition, such person may be required to repair the

malfunctioning alarm system. If repairs are ineffective, such person may be required to disconnect the malfunctioning alarm system or to render it inoperable. In addition, any such person may be required to reimburse the public safety agency for the actual costs of the public safety response.