

Springdale Fire Department

Policy & Procedures Manual

Volume 5 – Fire Operations

Section 501 – Fire Operations

501.10 Automatic Fire Alarms

Commercial automatic fire alarms will be dispatched with 1 Engine and 1 Ladder. Residential Fire Alarms (one and two family dwellings) will be dispatched as a Level 1 Alarm. The first due Engine Company shall respond Code 3. The secondary unit will respond Code 1, unless their response mode is upgraded by the first due Engine Company or Battalion 1. If the first arriving Engine Company encounters smoke or other evidence of a possible fire, or if Dispatch relays information to responding units that indicates a possible fire exists, the alarm will be upgraded by the first due Officer or Battalion 1 to a Level 2 or Level 3 Alarm and all responding units will respond Code 3.

If Dispatch relays information to the responding units that credibly indicates the alarm is false, the first due Engine Company shall reduce their response to Code 1 and continue to the scene to investigate and complete an SFD False Alarm Report. The secondary responding unit shall cancel their response and announce to dispatch they are “In Service”.

SFD False Alarm Reports must be completed on all automatic alarms where no fire condition occurred. All spaces on the False Alarm Report listed above the “Fee Schedule” shall be completely filled out and signed by the Engine Company Officer (or Acting Officer). Additionally, the False Alarm Report shall include a detailed description of the reason of the alarm, for example: manual alarm station pulled, electrical power problem, tripped sprinkler system, steam mistaken for smoke, food on stove, etc. The pink copy shall be left with the building representative. Completed False Alarm Reports shall be submitted to the Fire Marshal’s Office for review.

In the case of an alarm system (not an automatic sprinkler system) being unable to restore to active standby service and there is a likelihood frequent recurring alarms being transmitted, Chief Officers have the authority to advise Dispatch to not send a response to a particular occupancy but only after the following conditions have been met.

- An alarm impairment plan must be developed and approved by the responsible party of the occupancy.
- If the occupancy is high life hazard and or high fire loss hazard, a Fire Watch plan must be incorporated.
- Contact Car 6 or, if unavailable, Car 4 advice on plan development.
- A memo advising of the situation and the plan agreed upon must be transmitted to the Fire Marshal’s Office detailing the circumstances of the event and the action(s) taken.