

If you currently have an alarm system...

- Make sure everyone authorized is aware of how the system works for arming/disarming the system, and knows the cancellation code in case of an accidental activation.
- Ensure that your alarm system provides equipment that allows for verification of criminal activity and is in good working order.
- Notify trusted neighbors when you will be away from your residence/business.
- Encourage neighbors to notify the police if they observe/hear anything suspicious.

The Wheat Ridge Police Department acknowledges that properly installed, well maintained, and appropriately equipped and utilized alarms are beneficial to crime prevention. If you have any questions regarding Verified Alarm Response, please contact the Crime Prevention Team Sergeant Jim Cohen at 303-235-2951 or jcohen@ci.wheatridge.co.us.



Verified Alarm Response



*The Wheat Ridge
Police Department
is committed to providing
the highest standards of
service in partnership
with the community.*



False Alarm Statistics

Wheat Ridge Police Officers respond to approximately 1,150 intrusion alarms per year. 98% of these are false alarms. This equals 400 police officer hours, or \$12,000 per year spent needlessly.

False alarms contribute to a backlog of police calls; and add to police response times to other calls of crime and disorder. This is an ineffective use of valuable police resources.

To Better Serve You

In an effort to reduce the number of false alarm responses and to better allocate police resources, the Police Department has instituted a Verified Alarm Response, effective **November 1, 2010**.

Verified Alarm Response

This policy applies to intrusion alarms only. It does not impact hold-up, panic, and duress alarms; or alarms at schools, government and financial institutions, gun shops, or pharmacies.

Verified alarm response has been studied and implemented across the country. It has proven to assist police departments in better resource allocation, with no significant changes in burglary occurrences or change in frequency of apprehensions.

How Does Verified Alarm

Work?

- The Police Department's Communications Center will continue to accept intrusion alarm calls for service.
- Emergency Service Specialists will broadcast intrusion alarm calls on the radio to officers in the field.
- Police Officers will use such things as their prior knowledge of the location, time of day, weather, crime trends and patterns in the area, and immediate emergency call load to determine if they will respond, ***unless*** the Communications Center receives additional information (verification) that identifies that an unlawful intrusion is occurring.

Types of Alarm Verifications

- The officer has knowledge that would support that the alarm is valid.
- A secondary alarm is received (motion/heat detector, interior video/audio monitor, glass breakage indicator)
- Witness reports that support a crime is/has occurred.

Any alarm that is verified would receive the priority appropriate to the situation.

Advantages

The City will not realize any direct monetary savings associated with a verified alarm response; however:

- Patrol Officer time will be saved and Police Department resources will be more effectively allocated.
- Patrol Officers will be able to redirect their patrolling efforts to specific issues in their designated areas of responsibility and other calls for service.
- Decrease in call load and backlog of calls for service
- Decrease in Police Officer response times to other calls for service



The Wheat Ridge Police Department is committed to protecting homes and business from burglary. Therefore, we will respond to intrusion alarms where criminal activity is occurring.