

**Sanoca Rural Fire District, Inc.**  
**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**  
**Emergency Operations**

**Fire Company Operations**

**Subject: Response to Private Fire Alarm Activations**

Revised: June 22, 2003

---

**PURPOSE**

To establish a fire department policy on the response to fire alarm activations in industries, businesses, and private dwellings.

**POLICY**

It shall be the policy of this fire department to respond to ALL reports of fire alarm activations in any building.

**PROCEDURE**

The Wilson 911 Center will dispatch the fire department upon them receiving a report of fire alarm activation. There are several methods for receiving a fire alarm activation:

1. By a 24 hour monitoring agency, such as ADT, WESTEC, Brinks, etc.  
These companies are contracted by business/homeowners to monitor fire/heat/smoke conditions inside a building. When the alarm detects fire/heat/smoke, it dials the monitoring agency through the buildings' telephone line. When the monitoring agency receives the call, they in turn contact the local 911 center. The 911 center then dispatches the appropriate fire company.
2. By a simple telephone dialer. Fire/heat/smoke detectors in a home or business are connected to the buildings' telephone line by a modem. If these detectors activate, it triggers the modem to call 911. The 911 center then dispatches the appropriate fire company.
3. Audible sirens/alarms. Some homes/ businesses have only an audible warning device to alert neighbors or general public of a fire/heat/smoke detector activation. These types are usually not connected to a monitoring agency or telephone. The public hears the alarm and the someone hopefully will call 911. The 911 center then dispatches the appropriate fire company. Some buildings that contain internal sprinkler systems have a "water gong" alarm mounted on the outside of the building that rings like a bell when water is passing through the pipes in the system. These are usually

called in by the public also.

**Response**

Any dispatch to a report of a fire alarm activation shall require a response. If notification is given while enroute that the alarm was accidental, a routine response is then used. Make contact with a person on the scene or key holder and verify that the alarm is accidental. There may be an insurance fraud in progress, a domestic homicide cover-up, or any type of crime that can be covered up by fire. It shall be the policy of this fire department to respond to fire alarm activations whether disregarded or not.