

Chapter 33
ALARM SYSTEMS

ARTICLE I
Key Lock Boxes

- § 33-1. Legislative authority.
- § 33-2. Purpose.
- § 33-3. Definitions.

- § 33-4. Applicability.
- § 33-5. Key lock boxes.
- § 33-6. Installation.
- § 33-7. Maintenance.
- § 33-8. Penalties for offenses.
- § 33-9. Town liability.

[**HISTORY:** Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Watertown as indicated in article histories. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Fire prevention and building construction — See Ch. 54.

ARTICLE I
Key Lock Boxes
[Adopted 8-11-2011 by L.L. No. 8-2011]

§ 33-1. Legislative authority.

This article is adopted pursuant to the authority granted to the Town Board of the Town of Watertown pursuant to § 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York.

§ 33-2. Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of the Town of Watertown by reducing the impact false alarms have on Fire Officials in the Town of Watertown. False alarms result in unnecessary use of manpower and ineffective utilization of police, ambulance, fire and rescue equipment. This article seeks to ensure that police, ambulance, fire and rescue emergency personnel are available for dispatch to actual emergencies.

§ 33-3. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ALARM SYSTEM — Shall include a device or an assembly of equipment which emits an audible, visual, or other similar response which is intended to alert persons outside a premises to the existence of a hazard or emergency; or which is connected to a central station or answering service for the purpose of reporting such alarms to emergency vehicles.

§ 33-7. Maintenance.

It shall be the responsibility of the alarm user to:

- A. Assume all costs involved in the purchase and installation of the key lock box and supply the required contents for it;
- B. Keep the key lock box in good repair and visible to Fire Officials; and
- C. Ensure that all keys and information required to be contained in the key lock box shall be provided and kept current.

§ 33-8. Penalties for offenses.

- A. Failure of any alarm user to install a key lock box within 60 days of being notified of the requirement therefor pursuant to § 33-6 shall be guilty of a violation of this article, and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$200. For each week such violation exists, the alarm user shall be guilty of a separate and distinct offense under this section, and shall be subject to a fine therefor. In addition, in the event of such failure to install, the Town of Watertown may authorize the Town of Watertown Fire Department to install a key lock box system at the alarm user's expense, and, in the event that the alarm user fails to remit payment therefor to the Town of Watertown within 30 days after receipt of an invoice therefor, the Town may levy the cost thereof on the real property taxes for such parcel.
- B. Failure of any alarm user to maintain proper contents or to properly maintain the key lock box pursuant to §§ 33-5 and 33-7 of this article shall constitute a violation of this article and shall be subject to a fine of \$200.

§ 33-9. Town liability.

Neither the Town of Watertown, the Town of Watertown Fire District, nor the Town of Watertown Fire Department shall be liable for any defects in operation of emergency alarm systems, for any failure to respond appropriately or for any erroneous response upon receipt of any emergency alarm signal. Nor shall such entities be liable for the failure or defect of any installation, operation, or maintenance of equipment, the transmission of alarm signals or messages, or the relaying of such signals or messages. In the event that the Town of Watertown finds it necessary to disconnect a defective alarm or device, the Town shall incur no liability therefrom. In addition, if emergency personnel acting on behalf of the Town, or any of its fire or ambulance districts, must gain access to any premises at which an alarm system is installed as a result of having been summoned by said alarm system, the Town, its employees or any of its Fire Department emergency personnel shall not be liable for any damage caused by a forced entry to said premises.