



## MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF CHESTER



### ***FALSE ALARMS CAN BE PREVENTED***

Although weather and other occurrences out of your control can cause false alarms, most of the time they can be avoided. The major causes of false alarms include fumes from cooking, steam from showers, dust from building work, insects, poorly trained users, lack of maintenance, and incorrect or poorly designed and installed systems.

- Make sure your alarm provider is correctly licensed. Only purchase systems from reputable companies that use state of the art equipment. Ask for detailed information and a complete demonstration.
- Provide complete system training to anyone that you permit access to your security system, employees, neighbors, relatives, etc. Ensure the use of proper opening and closing procedures.
- Particulate matter whether smoke, dust, or steam will activate a smoke detector. Avoid placing them in locations that will cause nuisance alarms, for example, too close to kitchens, baths, and fireplaces.
- Be sure to address open, unlocked or loose fitting doors and windows, drafts from heaters or air conditioning systems, and wandering household pets that will cause security systems to activate.
- Pay close attention to your surroundings and how what you are doing could impact on the alarm system.
- During construction or renovations, cover smoke detectors that may be affected by construction activities. **Always restore all detectors daily to proper functionality after construction or renovation activities.** After construction is completed your alarm company should be called to service your system.
- Test your alarm frequently. Advise the fire department before and after an alarm test.
- Fire alarms systems should be maintained annually by competent and authorized service companies.
- Should your system be activated it is essential that you do not reset your system until a thorough investigation discovers the actual device responsible.
- Have all local contact phone numbers available to call or cancel accidental alarms.