

# Security Source

## Security Systems in the US:



There are **8 million** commercial alarm systems in the US.



Over **1.2 million** are added each year.  
(Source: <https://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/Publications/cops-p014-pub.pdf> page 14)

There are over **7 million** commercial false alarms requiring Police response each year, almost one per commercial installation per year



## False Alarm Facts:



**94%** of Burglar alarm calls are false



Fire Departments needlessly respond to **2.3 million** false fire alarms per year



The average false burglar alarm takes 20 minutes of police time, costing taxpayers approximately **\$1.5 billion/year**



It has been reported that Chicago police respond to **294,000** false burglar alarms each year. This equates to 195 full-time police officers

In Los Angeles, police receive **2,910** false burglar alarm calls per week. This equates to 41 officers working 24/7/365



An average of **30** firefighters die each year in traffic accidents responding to false fire alarms



## Causes of the 2.3 million False Fire Alarms:



The percentage of false fire alarms caused by faulty equipment: **27%**  
Caused by poor installation: **15%**



There are **765,000** false fire alarms per year caused by system malfunctions alone (33%)



Inadequate alarm system training is responsible for about **15%** of false fire alarms



Bad weather, alarm monitoring-center mistakes, and alarm line errors also trigger false alarms

## True Costs of False Alarms:



Some false alarm fines reach as much as **\$250/incident**



It takes about **\$2500** in sales for the average retailer to generate enough profit to pay that fine



If this number is still accurate, and **40%** of all false burglar alarms are commercial, then there are **14.4 million** false commercial burglar alarms/year. (Source: <https://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/Publications/cops-p014-pub.pdf> page 14)



If all were fined an average of **\$100** (some receive no fines and some receive \$1000 fines), the total loss to commercial properties is **\$1.4 billion.**