

Thunderstorm + Lightening + Power Outage = False Alarm?

- ◆ Power surges and lightening strikes should not cause false alarms!
- ◆ False alarms caused by lightening strikes are controllable through the proper grounding of alarm systems and the use of power AND phone line surge suppressors.
- ◆ Use of surge suppressors greatly reduces false alarms by redirecting and dissipating electrical currents to the ground.
- ◆ Power outages or interruption of power should not cause false alarms!
- ◆ County Code of Fairfax, Virginia 8.1 states "Every alarm system must have secondary or back-up power sufficient to operate the system in a non-alarm status for a minimum of four hours. An alarm activation shall not occur during switch-overs between primary and secondary power."

Contact your alarm dealer to confirm:

1. *Your alarm system is properly grounded.*
2. *Your alarm system has surge suppressors installed on BOTH the alarm system and on the phone line used to send signals to the central monitoring station.*
3. *Your backup battery supplies are in good condition, are fully charged and are holding a minimum charge of four (4) hours.*

REMEMBER . . . Properly designed, installed and maintained alarm systems will not generate false alarm activity (AND FINES) due to power surges or power interruptions!

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This document is available in an alternative format upon request. Please call the Fairfax County Police Department at (703) 246-7562 or TTY (703) 204-2264. Allow seven working days for preparation of the material.



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