



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

FALSE ALARM PREVENTION FOR CHURCHES AND OTHER WORSHIP FACILITIES



Worship facilities share unique circumstances that often contribute to the overall false alarm problem.

These circumstances include frequent turnover of volunteers, constant public access, in-house schools and daycare centers, fundraising activities, sharing the building with multiple congregations, and frequent visits by service providers and delivery personnel.

USE THESE TIPS TO AVOID FALSE ALARMS

- ❖ Thoroughly train all authorized users on how to arm and disarm the system. This includes members of other congregations that may share the space.
- ❖ Limit the number of people who have keys to the facility.
- ❖ Maintain a schedule that can be checked every day that shows who will be using the facility, what time they will be there, and what time they plan to leave.

- ❖ Ensure that an authorized church member is on site to properly arm and disarm the system when community or other groups use the facility.
- ❖ Secure and lock all doors and windows before arming the system.
- ❖ Don't change pass codes and arming codes without advising the appropriate authorized users. If pass codes must be changed, be sure to notify the alarm company immediately.
- ❖ Be sure the alarm company is familiar with the days and times regular services are held, to avoid false dispatches during active worship services.
- ❖ Notify the alarm company of opening and closing times of any daycares or schools held within the facility.
- ❖ If the alarm is set off accidentally while using the facility for a special event, be sure the key holder contacts the alarm company immediately to cancel the dispatch.
- ❖ Service and maintain the system regularly, and replace the batteries annually. If the system is not working properly, contact the alarm company as soon as possible to have it repaired.

Taking these steps will reduce false alarms and help the Sheriff's Office utilize on duty personnel in a more efficient and effective manner.

For additional information, call us at 407-836-3969 or visit us at www.ocso.com/securityalarms, email at faru@ocsofl.com. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.