False alarms serve to undermine the very protection that alarm systems were meant to provide. More and more, local authorities are denying response to locations after false alarms are registered and are even levying fines on owners. That is why it’s so important to be familiar with and to implement the features available on control panels that meet the CP-01 standard.

Local governments are beginning to levy fines up to $500 per incident for false alarms. Control Panels that adhere to the CP-01 standard can reduce the risks of getting fined.

Non-response is a result of loss of trust due to false alarms. CP-01 helps to restore that trust.

CP-01 is an ANSI standard that brings all points of view together.
False alarms are a thorn in the side of customers, service providers and response agencies alike. They divert vital public safety resources to non-events leaving real emergencies to suffer from decreased attention. The new realities of safety in America make this more than just an inconvenience. And local authorities are beginning to respond by levying fines and may even disregard calls from properties unless an alarm is verified.

So what can CP-01 compliant alarm panels do? It’s simple. CP-01 uses industry experience and common sense approaches to pinpoint the causes of false alarms. It then implements features that can decrease the frequency of these erroneous alarm signals. This saves time and money for everybody including customers and responders.

Typically, false alarms, or false dispatches, occur when we enter or exit a secured facility. That’s why key features of the CP-01 Control Panel Standard deal with the acts of Exiting / Arming and Entering / Disarming. For instance, a minimum of 45 seconds must be allowed for the user to exit a building before the alarm is activated. So when users are standing in the doorway fumbling for keys or checking for their cellular phone, they won’t set off the alarm. Plus, the audible exit annunciation sounder increases in frequency ten seconds prior to final activation.

Users are “only human.” And the CP-01 standard is designed to accommodate the realities of every day alarm use. For example, CP-01 compliant panels include an Entry and Disarming consideration or entry delay feature. A 30-second minimum delay time between the opening of the designated entry door (detection) and alarm activation allows people the time they need to get to the keypad and disarm the system before an alarm signal is sent.

When people need their Manual Alarm to direct an alarm signal during emergencies, the CP-01 standard adds the simple step that requires two distinct actions be taken. This makes it much more unlikely that a mistaken brush against the keypad or wireless device will signal an unintended alarm.

The CP-01 standard addresses features such as the Duress Alarm, a feature whereby a user can enter a unique code when under threat from an intruder, triggering a silent call for help. Industry feedback shows that the use of duress alarm deactivation is very rare. To make sure that a duress alarm is not accidentally activated, CP-01 requires that this duress code be programmed as a unique code that is not a variation of the main code. This can reduce unintentional duress code activation due to mis-entering the primary code.

When Cross Zoning is enabled, the CP-01 compliant panel requires that two detection devices be activated before a signal is sent. This minimizes the chances that a house pet activating a motion detector or door blown open by the wind will send a signal. The movement of a burglar through the property will trip two devices and cross zoning takes advantage of that reality. You are more confident that the police only show up when they are required.

False alarms are more than a nuisance. They have raised enough concern that local authorities have chosen to levy fines on those who take valuable time away from genuine emergencies. Not only can this cost the owner upwards of $500 per incident, it makes the entire community less safe as precious resources are diverted needlessly.

The new CP-01 standard uses common sense to make alarms function as they were intended. We are only human, and it is vital to have a system that takes that fact into consideration. After all, alarms are meant to bring assistance when it is truly needed. The CP-01 Standard for Control Panels is a way to make that a reality!