



NEW ZEALAND
FIRE
SERVICE
Whakaratonga Iwi

Building contractor's check list to avoid false alarms

As a contractor carrying out any building alterations or maintenance, you may be asked to pay \$1000 plus GST if your actions directly contribute to the unwanted activation of a fire alarm system.

Under Section 47(c)(5) of the Fire Service Act 1975, a property owner may recover New Zealand Fire Service charges from any person who causes a false alarm.

Contractors who cause false alarms include: builders, cleaners, electricians, painters, floor sanders, concrete cutters, plumbers, air-conditioning/refrigeration engineers, waterblasters, data technicians and lift engineers.

False alarms affect your profit and productivity

During building / maintenance work:

- Does the work produce dust or fumes in or near an alarm-protected area?
- Will activities involve penetrating or demolishing a wall or ceiling?
- Will welding, gas cutting, use of heat guns, sanding or grinding be carried out?

Any of the above could cause a false alarm

To help prevent false alarms:

- Check on ceilings for the location of smoke detectors, heat detectors or sprinkler heads
- Locate any fire alarm cables and avoid damaging them
- Consider isolating alarm zones while work is carried out

(this can be achieved by contacting the building owner or their nominated fire alarm/sprinkler contractor)



sprinkler



smoke detector

heat detector



NOTE: Cost recovery will **not** be sought for Fire Service responses to genuine emergencies or calls made in good faith. For further information refer to our website www.fire.org.nz/false.htm or phone your local fire region office.