

Residents

Businesses

Visitors

Departments

Government

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Home > Departments > Police Department > Division & Units

Print | Bookmark | Email

POLICE DEPARTMENT

About Us

Now Hiring

Crime In Your
Neighborhood

Crime Mapper

Crime Stoppers

Division & Units

Investigative Division

Operations Division

Support Division

Stanislaus Regional
911/Joint Powers
Agreement

Alarm Reduction Unit

Downloads

eReports - File Online

Links

Memorials

News

Programs & Services

Frequently Asked
Questions

RELATED LINKS:

Roundabouts - What You
Need to Know

Alarm Reduction Unit

Welcome To The Modesto Police Department's Alarm Reduction Unit!

Effective November 1, 2006, the Modesto Police Department began using Verified Response as a means of reducing the number of false alarm calls that patrol officers respond to. What this means for alarm owners is that the Modesto Police Department will no longer routinely respond to burglar alarms unless additional information is received to verify the validity of the alarm. The Alarm/Monitoring Company must be able to verify the alarm through the use of on-site audio and/or video equipment, or by a private security service. If the validity of the alarm was verified through the use of on-site equipment or a private security service, and it has been determined that the alarm is not false, the Modesto Police Department will dispatch an officer to respond.

The new dispatch policy does not affect the Police Department's response to panic, robbery, duress, or other types of hold-up alarms. These types of alarms will continue to be treated as high priority by the Police Department.

The Modesto Police Department does **not** recommend that alarm owners respond to verify their alarm themselves, or send neighbors or friends. Doing so could be potentially dangerous if an officer, a security officer, or intruder is on-site. By now, alarm companies should have contracted with local security firms that will handle on-site verification.

Please visit the links below for more information on the Modesto Police Department's **Verified Response** policy.

To learn more, click on a division:

- [Press Release On Verified Response Issued 11/1/06](#)
- [False Alarm Policy Brochure](#)
- [Revised Dispatch Directive Incorporating Verified Response](#)
- [Letter Mailed To Current Alarm Permit Holders In April 2006](#)
- [Letter Mailed To Alarm/Monitoring Companies in April 2006 *](#)

*Note - date of September 1st mentioned in above letters has been extended to November 1st.

Did you you know that all alarm systems that draw public attention, whether or not they are monitored by a company, must have a valid Alarm Permit on file? The Alarm Permit is FREE to file, but alarm owners may be fined \$200 for NOT having an Alarm Permit on file. Alarm Permits must be renewed every five years, and you will receive notification from the Alarm Reduction Unit when it is time to update your permit. [Click here to download the Alarm Permit application.](#) Completed permits can be mailed to: Alarm Reduction Unit, PO Box 3313, Modesto CA 95353 or faxed to (209) 572-9649.

Check out this informational report on alarms!

- ["False Burglar Alarms" by Rana Simpson, 2003](#)

Modesto Police Department
 Alarm Reduction Unit
 600 10th Street
 Modesto, CA 95354
 Phone: 209-572-9626
 Fax: 209-572-9649

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