

**WESTHAMPTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

Response to Automatic Fire Alarm Activations

Issued 03/04/08

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Approved By: Fire Chief Chris Norris

Reviewed By:

PURPOSE: Automatic fire alarm systems are being installed in more public and private buildings than in years past. Automatic fire alarm systems are connected to alarm monitoring companies. These companies are automatically alerted when alarms are activated and in turn they report these activations to Emergency Dispatch Centers. As a consequence of the availability of this technology, more automatic smoke detector activations are being reported to Emergency Dispatch Centers by these alarm notification companies.

SCOPE: The Westhampton Fire Department will respond to every automatic fire alarm and smoke detector activation. All personnel should consider the alarm activation to be legitimate and continue to respond until an Officer, Engine Company, or any Public Safety Official (police or fire) from the Town of Westhampton arrives on scene and can confirm the cause of the activation. No Westhampton Fire Department units will be cancelled by anyone except a Public Safety Officer from the Town of Westhampton.

Personnel arriving on scene will investigate the cause of the activation and mitigate any problems or emergencies that caused the activation. Emergency crews will assist the homeowner with resetting the alarm prior to leaving the scene.

For all automatic fire alarm and smoke detector activations, only the first due engine will respond “hot”. All other apparatus will respond “cold” with the normal flow of traffic. Any additional information such as smoke or fire showing will constitute an upgrade with all responding units.