

Chairman Brian McMahan and the Jackson County Board of Commissioners
401 Grindstaff Cove Road
Sylva, North Carolina 28779

Emergency Resources in Jackson County are being consumed at a disturbing rate when dealing with alarm responses. In 2016, fire alarm activations accounted for 558 Volunteer Fire Department responses spread across our seven fire districts. This number tripled for County Law Enforcement personnel. Residential security alarms accounted for 950 responses and Commercial accounted for 596. Totalling 1,546 responses. Estimates show, regardless of alarm type, commercial alarms are false a minimum of 76% of the time. This rate increases to more than 95% for residential. When dealing with such high numbers of false alarms responding emergency personnel are often prioritizing calls and giving alarms a lesser urgency.

An alarm is any signal or communication generated from an alarm system, which prompts a response, by emergency services in the County. False alarms are activations without justified reason or cause.

A popular proposed solution is an alarm registration process for all new and/or existing alarm systems whether residential or commercial. Through education and accountability, our goal is to reduce the number of repetitive false activations, therefore increasing the effectiveness of our emergency services and maximizing resources made available to the public.

We look forward to working with the Jackson County Board of Commissioners in order to better serve the citizens of Jackson County.

Respectively,

Chief Mike Beck, Sylva VFD



Chief Randy Dillard, Cashiers-Glenville VFD



Chief Kent Moore, Qualla VFD



Chief Johnny Nicholson, Balsam-Willets-Ochre Hill VFD



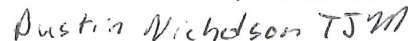
Chief Tim Green, Cullowhee VFD



Chief Darrell Woodard, Savannah VFD



Chief Dustin Nicholson, Canada VFD



Sheriff Chip Hall, Jackson County Sheriff's Office

