

Article 0807-6: FIRE DEPARTMENT

This article utilized Title 13, VSA § 1751, 1752, 1753, 1754 and § 3729

Section I: False Alarms

- A. A person who willfully or knowingly gives, or aides or abets in giving, by any means any false alarm or fire or other emergency to be transmitted to or within any organization, official or volunteer, for dealing with emergencies involving danger to life or property shall be imprisoned for not more than one (1) year or fined not more than one thousand (\$1,000) dollars or both.
- B. If bodily injury or death is sustained by any person as a result of a violation of this section, the person convicted of the violation in lieu of any penalty imposed by subsection (a) of this section, shall be imprisoned for not more than five (5) years or fined not more than two thousand (\$2,000) dollars or both. However, this subsection shall not prevent the imposition of a greater fine or sentence against any person who is convicted of any degree of homicide including manslaughter.

Section II: Tampering with Facilities

- A. A person who willfully or knowingly tampers with, interferes with or impairs any public fire alarm apparatus, wire or associated equipment, shall be imprisoned for not more than one (1) year or fined not more than one thousand (\$1,000) dollars or both.

Section III: False Public Alarms

A person who initiates or willfully circulates a report of warning of an impending bombing or other offense or catastrophe, knowing that the report or warning is false or baseless and that it is likely to cause evacuation of a building, place or assembly or facility of public transport, or to cause public inconvenience or alarm, shall be imprisoned for not more than one (1) year or fined not more than one thousand (\$1,000) dollars or both.

Section IV: False Report to Law Enforcement Authorities

- A. A person who knowingly gives false information to any law enforcement officer with purpose to implicate another shall be imprisoned for not more than one (1) year or fined not more than one thousand (\$1,000) dollars or both.
- B. A person shall not be imprisoned for more than six (6) months or fined not more than five hundred (500) dollars if he or she:

1. Reports to law enforcement authorities an offense or other incident within their concern, knowing that it did not occur; or
2. Pretends to furnish such authorities with information relating to an offense or incident when he or she knows he or she has no information relating to such offense or incident.

Section V: Fire Protection Apparatus

A person who without lawful authority tampers or interferes with a main, hydrant, gate or other fire protection apparatus of a municipal water system or with the fire protection apparatus of a private water system used for Municipal purposes shall be fined not more than one thousand (\$1,000) dollars or imprisoned not more than ten (10) years or both.

Section VI: Powers and Duties of Official in Charge:

In towns that do not maintain a fire fighting force and are served by a volunteer fire department, the official in charge of such volunteer fire department or in his absence the assistant highest in rank present at the fire shall have the powers and duties of a chief engineer as provided in Title 20, Chapter 171, § 2673 of this Title.