



May 26th, 2008

Dear Belcarra Property Owners and Residents:

This message is to advise you of a change in Policing Services by the Coquitlam RCMP Detachment, effective June 15th, 2008.

In 2006/2007, local Detachment area taxpayers paid over \$800,000 for police response to false alarms, triggered by accident or electronic/operator error. False alarms represent 94 – 98% of all alarm calls and over 10% of the total policing service calls. In 2006/2007, Coquitlam RCMP Detachment attended more false alarms than any other single type of police call. In 2007, false alarms comprised 28% of calls for police service to the Village of Belcarra.

In an effort to minimize the negative impact that false alarms are having on the level of policing services in your area, the RCMP, in partnership with the Village, will be implementing a new “False Alarm Reduction Strategy”. This strategy is based on a “Verified Response”, which means that there is some form of verification that there has been an unwanted intrusion.

It is important to emphasize that this strategy does not mean that the RCMP will no longer respond to any alarms calls. It does mean, however, that simple audible or one-zone alarm incidents will need to be verified by an alarm company or an eye witness before police will attend. Police will continue to attend as before, to school alarms, panic alarms, residences inhabited by senior citizens, physically challenged/special needs people, hold-up alarms, multi-zone alarms, two way voice alarms, and glass break alarms.

It is also important that you make efforts to contact your alarm company and provide information on any special needs or care situations that will ultimately assist them and the police in assessing a suitable response.

The False Alarm Reduction Strategy has been successfully implemented in other municipalities served by the RCMP. It is now being implemented here to provide you with a more responsible, accountable and cost effective policing service. This new strategy should significantly reduce the hundreds of hours RCMP members spend each year responding to false alarms, which will free up police to respond to actual break-ins and other public safety emergencies.

We do welcome your comments or concerns regarding the change in this service; please direct them to:

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Tel 604-945-1550

Yours truly,

Peter Lepine, Superintendent
Officer in Charge
Coquitlam RCMP Detachment