

FREEPORT BOROUGH  
ORDINANCE NO. 418

AN ORDINANCE OF THE FREEPORT BOROUGH, ARMSTRONG COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING A SHELTER-IN-PLACE ALARM AND PROCEDURE.

WHEREAS, the safety and welfare of the residents of Freeport Borough is of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish a clear, effective, and standardized procedure for activating a shelter-in-place alarm during emergency situations or extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, the Freeport Borough Council deems it necessary to adopt such a procedure in order to ensure rapid and coordinated emergency response actions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Freeport Borough Council as follows:

SECTION 1. TITLE AND PURPOSE

1.1 Title- This ordinance shall be known as the “Freeport Borough Shelter-in-Place Alarm Procedure Ordinance.”

1.2 Purpose- The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a clear and effective procedure for the activation of a shelter-in-place alarm in Freeport Borough during emergency situations—including but not limited to extreme weather events, hazardous material incidents, or other public safety threats—in order to ensure that residents are alerted promptly and can take appropriate shelter.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY & DECISION-MAKING

2.1 Designation of Authority – The Chief of Police of the Southern Armstrong Regional Police department is hereby designated as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Freeport Borough.

2.2 Decision Making Authority- The emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for determining when a shelter-in-place alarm is necessary. The decision to activate the alarm shall be based on the nature and severity of the emergency, including but not limited to:

- Extreme weather events,
- Hazardous material incidents, or
- Other public safety threats.

SECTION 3. COMMUNICATION & ACTIVATION

3.1 Notification Procedure- Upon determination that a shelter-in-place alarm is warranted, the Emergency Management Coordinator shall immediately notify the Freeport Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief.

3.2 Activation of the Alarm- The Fire Chief, or designee, shall activate the shelter-in-place alarm from the fire station. The alarm activation shall consist of four (4) long, continual blasts using the fire department horn.

#### SECTION 4. LIMITATIONS & CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Manual activation requirement- The shelter-in-place alarm shall only be activated manually at the fire station. There is no provision for remote activation at this time.

4.2 Operational Limitations- In the event that:

- No fire department personnel are available at the fire station,
- Fire department personnel are engaged in an active emergency response, or
- Conditions are hazardous for personnel to travel to the fire station, the shelter-in-place alarm may not be activated.

#### SECTION 5. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION & FOLLOW-UP

5.1 Additional Emergency Notifications- In addition to the audible alarm from the fire department horn, further emergency notifications may be disseminated by:

- The Emergency Alert System (EAS), if available;
- Social media channels and the municipal website;
- Local news outlets, when feasible; and
- Direct notification through law enforcement or emergency responders, as necessary.

5.2 Resident Education- Residents shall be informed about the meaning of the shelter-in-place alarm and the appropriate actions to be taken upon hearing the alarm, including seeking immediate shelter indoors and awaiting further instruction from emergency officials.

#### SECTION 6. REVIEW AND TRAINING

6.1 Annual Review- This ordinance and its corresponding procedures shall be reviewed and updated annually by the Freeport Borough Emergency Management Coordinator in conjunction with the Freeport Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief.

6.2 Training and Public Awareness- Periodic training sessions and public awareness campaigns shall be conducted to ensure that both emergency personnel and residents are fully knowledgeable of the shelter-in-place procedure and their respective roles during an emergency.

#### SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

7.1 Effective Date- This ordinance shall take effect on May 13, 2025.

7.2 Approval and Certification- This ordinance has been approved by the Freeport Borough Council and is hereby certified by the appropriate municipal authorities.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ (Insert Name & Title)

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ (Insert Name & Title)

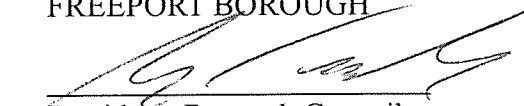
7.3 Severability- If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or provision of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remaining portions of this ordinance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Freeport Borough Council on this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

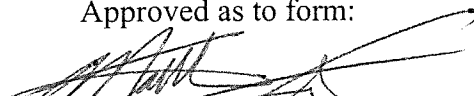
ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Borough Manager

FREEPORT BOROUGH

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Borough Council

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Freeport Borough

