



InfoLink

Information for Public Safety False Alarm Reduction Professionals

FARA InfoLink January, 2012

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**2012
Symposium
Packets were
mailed to you!**

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Login to FARA's New Web Site or Else!

The new face of FARA was recently unveiled at www.faraonline.org. The new website has given FARA a fresh, new look and provides opportunities for growth and new perspectives within the alarm reduction community.

The website committee is anxious for the FARA membership to experience the most important facet of FARA to its fullest extent. Each member must register with the site in order to take advantage of the benefits offered. Current members will need to fill out a registration form (no payment required) on line.

[Please download and follow the step by step instructions to register on the site.](#)

We will need to start adding members with an assigned user name and password for those who have not yet registered on the new web site. Please help us out and register today so you can create your own easy to remember user name and password.

You will need to enter *http://* when entering the website address. A confirmation will be emailed within 72 hours of completion.

The registration process will also allow FARA the opportunity to update current information so all members are able to access the most up to date information.

Please contact any member of the website committee with any questions.

If you have any questions, concerns or problems registering please contact any member of the website committee (see below for list of website committee members).

Sincerely,

Stacey Peacock
Website Committee Chair

Website Committee

- Brad Shipp – Ex Officio bradshipp@4yoursolution.com
- Stacey Peacock - Chair peacocks@barnstablepolice.com
- Pam Lambird plambird@greenbeltmd.gov
- Amy Lowe amy.lowe@lynchburgva.gov
- April Simmons april.simmons@portlandoregon.gov
- Cindy Smith cindy.b.smith@checkpt.com
- Shellie Reid Shellie.reid@loudoun.gov
- Kristina Walker Klwalker@vectorsecurity.com

Greetings from Albuquerque!

By: Brad Shipp



If you go to the FARA Symposium you will be able to send this postcard to all your friends!

Whether you tell your friends or not – you'll have a great time in Albuquerque!

The true Southwest awaits you in **Albuquerque, New Mexico**. Come immerse yourself in our rich culture and heritage, rooted in centuries of history. Soak in our blue skies and sun that shines 310 days a year—perfect for outdoor activities. Breathe in the high desert air scented with sage and piñon, and you'll understand why **Albuquerque, NM** is a destination like no other.

Now is the time to request permission to attend this awesome training opportunity. Please complete the reimbursement application and return it as soon as possible. Institute funds are limited and are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. Do not procrastinate or you may not be able to take part in this great opportunity.

The conference committee has worked hard to set training classes and secure instructors. The only thing left is for you to finalize your plans to attend the next symposium from May 1 -3, 2012 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Thanks to Institute Sponsors!

Without the FARA Institute and our generous contributors, FARA training symposiums would not be possible. Many, many heartfelt thanks go out to all of our Institute donors as follows:

Platinum (\$3000 or more donation)

National Electronic Security Alliance (NESA)
Texas Burglar & Fire Alarm Association (TBFAA)

Gold (\$1000)

Canadian Security Association (CANASA)
Installation Quality Certification Board
Maryland Burglar & Fire Alarm Association (MDBFAA)
Monitronics Security
Vector Security, Inc.

Sponsor (\$250)

Homesafe Security Systems
United Central Control

Additional Bylaw Changes Proposed for Vote at Albuquerque Meeting

By: Brad Shipp, FARA

Note: We previously published changes #1 & #2- since then changes 3 to 6 have been submitted

FARA Proposed Bylaw Changes

Change #1- Elections

Rationale - The current bylaw provision limits an incumbent's ability to run for office even if the incumbent is within their rights to do so; i.e., within the 8-year maximum limitation. The recommended language reflects the Board's real intent that an incumbent's request for consideration of candidacy will not be considered only if another member in good standing files an intent to run for the position and the incumbent is beyond the 8-year maximum for office.

Article 4, Section 4

B. An incumbent may submit a request for consideration of candidacy without regard to the term limits provided in Section 4(A). If a member in good standing submits a request for consideration of candidacy, as provided in these Bylaws, for the same seat occupied by an incumbent, the candidacy of the incumbent shall not be accepted if the incumbent has served in a single position for more than four (4) consecutive terms or eight (8) years, whichever is greater.

Change#2 – Change of Employment

Rationale: New language is proposed that allows a Director or Officer to remain on the board consistent with the bylaws if they are no longer employed by a member agency.

Article 4 - Section 6. Vacancies: In the case of a vacancy, resignation or removal of an Officer or Director, the President of the FARA shall designate a person to fill the unexpired portion of the previous Officer or Director's term. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President with the longest tenure on the board shall assume all duties of the President until the subsequent normal presidential election. In the event of the resignation of the Immediate Past President, that seat shall remain open. All appointments shall be ratified by the Board of Directors.

When any Director or Officer is not employed for over 90 days by a member agency or company that qualifies him or her for that office, that board position shall be considered a vacancy, and may be filled in accordance with these Bylaws.

Change#3 – Alumni Membership

Rationale: New language is proposed that allows an active member to remain as a member when the company or agency that they are affiliated with makes a decision to discontinue their membership.

Section 6. Alumni Members: Alumni Membership can be granted to an individual, who has served on a committee and or board for at least one year, when the company or agency that they are affiliated with makes a decision to discontinue their membership. Alumni Membership may be conferred by recommendation of a member of the Board of Directors and upon the two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors. Alumni members may attend meetings, receive the Association's Newsletter and hold elected office in the Association and or serve on a committee, but shall have no voting rights for electing officers, board members or on bylaw changes. The individual Alumni member will be listed as a member in any member listings, but the affiliated agency will not be listed. When the company or agency rejoins the alumni membership will terminate.

Section 7 6. Dues:

Change #4- Allow Options to Amend Bylaws

Rationale: Allow the membership to approve a bylaw change by voting through email. Decrease the amount of notice required for changes.

ARTICLE 8. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be adopted, amended or repealed by a vote of the membership.

A. Any member in good standing may submit a proposal to amend or repeal any section of these bylaws.

B. Any and all proposed change(s) shall be submitted to the Executive Director Secretary at least 120 days prior to the next regular membership meeting.

C. If the proposed change(s) are submitted less than 90 days but more than 45 days of the next regular membership meeting the vote shall be held at the next regular membership meeting. If the proposed changes are submitted at another time the board of directors may schedule a vote of the membership or hold the proposal until the next regular membership meeting.

~~DC.~~ The Secretary shall notify the membership of the proposed change(s) within ~~ninety (90)~~ 30 days of the next regular membership meeting or within 30 days of the deadline for all votes to be received. The notification may be by U.S. mail, electronic mail, fax or inclusion in the FARA newsletter and by posting on the official FARA website.

D. All public safety members in good standing may vote on adoption or changes to the bylaws. Each public safety membership is allowed one vote.

E. Voting at a regular membership meeting. All proposals must receive a favorable two-thirds (2/3) vote in attendance at the ~~general~~ regular membership meeting to pass. Absentee votes pertaining to bylaws issues will not be considered.

F: Voting by Mail, Fax, Email or Electronic Means. All proposals must receive a favorable two-thirds (2/3) vote of all those voting by Mail, Fax, Email or Electronic Means. At least 25% of all those eligible to vote must participate in the voting for a proposal to be adopted.

Change #5- Remove Non-Participating Board Members

Rationale: The board of directors should be able to replace a board member who does not participate in the meetings of the board.

ARTICLE 4. OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 6. Vacancies: In the case of a vacancy, resignation or removal of an Officer or Director, the President of the FARA shall designate a person to fill the unexpired portion of the previous Officer or Director's term. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President with the longest tenure on the board shall assume all duties of the President until the subsequent normal presidential election. In the event of the resignation of the Immediate Past President, that seat shall remain open. All appointments shall be ratified by the Board of Directors.

When any Director or Officer is absent or misses 3 consecutive Board of Directors meetings without taking a leave of absence as provided for in these Bylaws, then that position may be considered a vacancy, and may be filled in accordance with these Bylaws.

Change #6- Clean up Language referring to National Office

Rationale: The name of FARA's main office was not changed when FARA expanded to include Canada.

ARTICLE 7. GOVERNANCE

Section 10. ~~International National~~ Office: The Board of Directors shall select and maintain an International ~~a National~~ Office of the association at such location as it shall designate, wherein shall be kept the records and archives of the association. The location of an International ~~a National~~ office may be changed by the Board of Directors as necessary.

FARA's
Training & Certification Committee
Wants YOU



To become a
Certified Alarm Manager

Taking the certification exam is easy if you follow these steps:

- 1. Gather the materials**
- 2. Read the materials**
- 3. Organize the materials**
- 4. Take the exam**

The committee will be with you every step of the way.
Make the decision now to join us on this journey!

Certification Exam Prep

The Certification exam is an “open book” test and there are now two options for the “book” format:

- Option 1 is a printed hard copy of all of the materials.
- Option 2 is an electronic copy of the materials.

More information can be found under the Rules at the certification page of the website:

<http://faraonline.org/members-2/certification/>

Your homework this month is as follows:

- Decide whether you will print all the materials and place them in a large notebook (3”-4”) or save them on a flash drive for use on your laptop computer. (Hint: the FARA zip drive given at last year’s symposium has all of the documents already on it)
- Gather the following bulletins and save them to your flash drive or print them: (Hint: most of

these bulletins are on the Alarm User Publications page in the Members section of the FARA website).

- Appropriate Use of Duress, Hold-Up and Panic Alarms
- Audio and Video Verification Bulletin
- Before Activating Your Alarm System
- Burglar Alarm Systems and Apartments
- Consumer Protection and the Alarm User – Before you Buy
- Enhanced Call Verification
- False Alarm Prevention and Security Tips
- False Alarms, Pets and Rodents- Cat Burglars on the Prowl?
- If You Give Them a Key – Give Them the Codes!
- Maintaining Contact with your Alarm Company
- New Home Move-Ins - Is There a Security System Already Installed?
- Rearranging your Home Environment!
- Remodeling
- Springtime False Alarm Reduction Tips
- The Holidays
- Thunderstorm + Lightning + Power Outage = False Alarm?
- Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)
- What Is Your Password?
- Your Alarm System, Its Battery Backup And False Alarm Prevention

3. Read the bulletins.

That's it! There are 19 bulletins on the list. If you read one a day, you will be done with them before the next assignment comes out!

Training and Certification Committee Update

By: Sherry Couey, Fayetteville Police, NC, T&C Committee member

Due to the busy holidays the Training and Certification Committee did not meet in December. However, work continued on several different projects. This was especially true for our C.A.M promotional campaign.

CAM Spotlight - Debbie Hansen

By: Sherry Couey, Fayetteville Police, NC, T&C Committee member

Now for this edition's C.A.M. Spotlight! Everyone meet Debbie Hansen!

BIO

Current Position (include Department or Government Agency, City or County and State or Province (Canada))

False Alarm Reduction Coordinator
City of Naperville, IL

Hobbies or Interests

Dance, reading, knitting, movies and hanging out with the kids/grandkids!

How long have you been a member of FARA and do you participate in any FARA committees or activities?

I have been a member of FARA for 5 ½ years and currently participate on the membership committee, the conference committee and the board.

Certified Alarm Manager Experience

When did you first obtain your certification?

April of 2006, San Francisco CA

What made you decide to take the exam?

My first week on the job in Sept of 2005, my supervisor informed me that I was going to San Francisco to take the CAM test! Yikes! No pressure there! ☺

Did you get any response from employers, alarm industry, members of the community about your achievement?

Not really.

Do you think accomplishing your certification has benefited your career or position as an alarm manager/coordinator? Has it made a difference in what you do?

Yes! As someone who knew nothing about false alarm reduction, attending the symposium, and sitting for the exam, gave me a great understanding and a solid base to become an effective alarm reduction coordinator.

Do you think others could benefit from achieving their Certification status?

Of course! It helps to increase your overall knowledge of all things "alarm related" and gives you more credibility as you interact with your colleagues in the alarm world.

Where is your certificate now? (Displayed on wall? Hidden in a drawer?)

Proudly displayed in my cubicle for all to see! ☺

Featured Manual - Developing a Community Outreach Program

By Brad Shipp, FARA

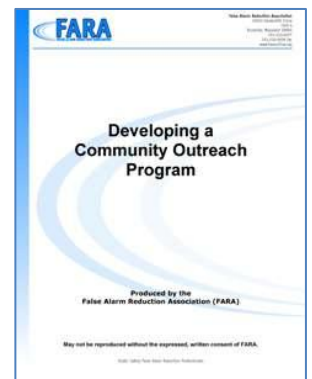
The purpose of this guide is to act as a resource and provide ideas to members who wish to implement outreach initiatives in the communities in which we live and work.

Your community can be defined as any group of people having a common interest residing in the same region. This can be as small or as large of an area as you are comfortable with.

Reaching out to the community to educate, inform and gather information will help you insure that citizens and the industry know your expectations and will take the time to be compliant.

Your community outreach program will result in heightened awareness of how a security system should be installed, used and maintained so that it is an asset to the community.

The full list of FARA other publications can be accessed on our [web site](#). Copies of manuals can be downloaded from the member's only site.



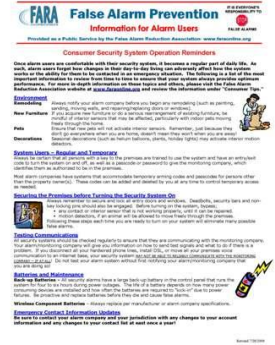
Featured Bulletin - Consumer Reminders

By Brad Shipp, FARA

Once alarm users are comfortable with their security system, it becomes a regular part of daily life. As such, alarm users forget how changes in their day-to-day living can adversely affect how the system works or the ability for them to be contacted in an emergency situation. The following is a list of the most important information to review from time to time to ensure that your system always provides optimum performance.

The full list of FARA bulletins can be accessed on our [web site](#).

We encourage you to use these informational bulletins as bill stuffers, handouts at meetings or to send to individual problem alarm users.



FARA's Believe it or Not

By: Lisa Espinosa & Sha Alexander, Newsletter Editors

Police respond to late-night call from Superior shelter, find puppy chewing alarm wires

1.19.12 - Duluth News Tribune - Lake County Sheriff's Deputy Adam Borchert collared a juvenile delinquent on Wednesday. Then he brought the offender home, with a bag of kibble.

Lake County Sheriff's Deputy Adam Borchert collared a juvenile delinquent on Wednesday. Then he brought the offender home, with a bag of kibble.

Borchert is the new owner of a 3-month-old puppy named Tennille — soon to be renamed, probably Dakota — who had quite an eventful final night at the Animal Allies Humane Society shelter in Superior. The blue heeler-German wirehaired pointer mix chewed through the wires of the shelter's alarm system, prompting two police calls.

"Last night Tennille was looking a little timid in her kennel back with the other dogs, so we thought it would be nice and fun for her to come back and be behind the desk, in the office area," said Anna Sjodin, lead adoption counselor at the shelter formerly run by Animal Rescue Federation.

"She was a lot more social and outgoing back there than she was in the kennel, so then when we went home at night we left her back there ... and set the security system, and overnight she chewed the wires to the alarm. So the cops came last night, and then this morning when we found out our phone didn't work either, we put the wiring back together and then the alarm went off again, and so the cops came back again."

The calls came in at 10:42 p.m. Tuesday and 8:10 a.m. Wednesday, according to Superior Police Capt. Matt Markon. Five hours after that second call, Tennille was meeting her new owner — Borchert, who drove down from Ely with no idea that the puppy he had spotted online the day before had caused so much commotion.

"The fact that she got the cops called on her a couple times before I picked her up was pretty funny," said the deputy sheriff, who wasn't too worried about the dog's mischievous streak. "She's a puppy yet, I'm sure it'll leave. She just didn't like being left alone.

"I do grouse hunting and have a family, so (she'll) be a good family dog; I'll train her for some hunting." Tennille arrived in Duluth last week from a shelter in Iowa with her brother — yes, he's named Captain — as part of a program called Rescue Waggin'.



Tennille and the deputy

"Rescue Waggin' takes dogs who are in shelters that have high euthanasia rates, and they take them to shelters like ours that don't euthanize, and we get them adopted," Sjodin said.

Tennille was transferred to the Superior shelter on Sunday, was adopted Wednesday and is now settling in at her new home in Ely.

Markon said it's not unusual for Superior police officers to respond to an after-hours alarm at the shelter, and officers carry keys to the shelter in case they need to drop off an animal after hours. But Markon said he could not recall a case in his 21 years on the force where a dog's chewing had prompted a police call.

As the shelter staff assisted visitors at the front desk Wednesday, the duct tape-patched alarm wire could be seen behind the counter. While Tennille's wayward teeth caused some headaches, Sjodin said there was one good outcome: "It's good to know that the security system works." [More Info](#)

Do you have any stories you would like to share about strange, unusual, or funny reasons for false alarms? How about outlandish things that happen in the course of your usual work day? I know we all have them, so let's share and give everyone a chuckle! Please forward your stories to malexan2@lexingtonky.gov or lespinosa@ci.beaverton.or.us and we'll put them in the next InfoLink for all to share!

AZ: Deputy Coleman's death shows there is no routine call for a cop

1.11.12 - AZ Central.com - Anthem, AZ - The burglar alarm went off in the middle of the night, as alarms do all over this city do every night. A Maricopa County sheriff's deputy, dispatched to the Anthem pediatrician's office to check it out, noticed the minivan parked nearby, beside a Starbucks. So he walked over to look inside and when he saw a man and his dog sleeping in the van he called for backup, as deputies routinely do. Maybe the man was connected to the burglary or maybe he was a guy who needed help.

Deputy Bill Coleman was the first of two backups to arrive. He pulled his Expedition to within six or eight feet of the van, angling in on the van's left side. With his overhead lights flashing and his headlights raking over the van, Coleman walked up and rapped his flashlight on the window. The man slid open the door, pushed out the barrel of an assault rifle and started firing. Twenty nine times he fired, using military-grade ammo, metal piercing affairs that would have gone through body armor like steel through butter though this time they didn't have to. One of the green-tipped .233-caliber rounds slammed into Coleman, just beneath his Kevlar vest. [More Info](#)

Joke of the Month

(Police comments taken from actual police car videos)

"Relax, the handcuffs are tight because they're new. They'll stretch after you wear them a while."

"If you take your hands off the car, I'll make your birth certificate a worthless document."

"If you run, you'll only go to jail tired."

Do you have any great jokes to share? Please send them to malexan2@lfucg.com or lespinosa@beavertonoregon.gov

News on Door to Door Sales

Courtesy of NESAs

- **Police looking for man going door to door selling security alarm ...**
12.14.11 - NewsNet5.com - According to police, the man wears a shirt with an ADT logo when he tries to sell the security alarms. But ADT says they do not solicit door to door. ...[More Info](#)
- **FL Sheriff: Alarm company salesman facing rape charges**
1.1.12 - 14 News WFIE Evansville - A door to door salesman with a Florida alarm company is facing several charges, including rape, after allegedly attacking a woman he first tried to sell a ... [More Info](#)
- **Action 9: Woman regrets not reading contract thoroughly**
1.5.12 - WSOC - Charlotte, NC - Mary Bryant had an alarm system installed in her home, but three days after the installation, ... When Bryant sent ISI Alarms a written cancellation notice, ...[More Info](#)

Public Safety Updates

Courtesy of NESAs

- **Craziest 911 calls of the year. Funny 911 Calls that really happened!**
12.16.11 - [Newstrick](#) - From dissatisfied customers to out-of-control celebrities to lost families, it was a banner year for emergency dispatchers across the country. We're taking a look back at some of the craziest 911 calls of 2011. [More Info](#)
- **AL: Fairhope Police Chief Bill Press highlights department's ...**
1.8.12 - Press-Register - al.com - Fairhope, AL - City Ordinances: We drafted and the City Council approved a new Alarm Ordinance, which went into effect January 1, 2012. In addition, the ordinance ... [More Info](#)
- **AZ: Alarm companies refuse to cooperate with police**
1.5.12 - KVOA Tucson News - Tucson, AZ - The owner of Tucson Alarm Company Roger Score said his company protects homes of high-profile people including celebrities and politicians. ...[More Info](#)
- **AZ: Avondale Ordinance Overturned; Dealers Won't Have to Foot False Alarm Fines**
12.12.11 - Security Sales & Integration - Avondale, AZ - After battling with the Arizona Alarm Association (AzAA) for almost a year, the Avondale (Ariz.) city council has amended an ordinance that would have held alarm companies responsible for all false alarm fees. [More Info](#)
- **AZ: City bonds add up**
12.18.11 - Arizona Daily Sun - Flagstaff, AZ - "We've experienced a 66 percent increase in alarm activity (since construction began)," ... "We are going to exceed 10000 alarms in the calendar year. ... [More Info](#)
- **AZ: Fee plan revived for alarm owners**
1.16.12 - Arizona Daily Star - Tucson, AZ - Households that have alarms could once again be asked to pay the city \$20 a year to register them. The Tucson Police Department is resurrecting a proposal ... [More Info](#)
- **CA: Burglar Alarms Basically Meaningless In San Jose**
12.28.11 - SFist - San Jose, CA -The San Jose Police Department has decided that they aren't going to respond to burglar alarms anymore unless someone can confirm that an actual crime is ... [More Info](#)
- **CA: Cathedral City alarm users required to purchase permit**
1.14.12 - The Desert Sun - Cathedral City, CA - Residents and business owners with an alarm system will be required to buy a permit as a part of program implemented by the city. ... [More Info](#)

- **CA: Emergency alarms burdening Merced police first responders**
1.7.12 - Merced Sun-Star - Merced, CA - A stunningly high percentage of residential and commercial alarm calls in Merced are false alarms. ... [More Info](#)
- **CA: False burglar alarm limit drops from 12 to two**
12.22.11 - Napa Valley Register - Napa, CA - After years of rushing to burglar alarms that turned out to be nothing, the Napa Police Department wants to spend its time focusing on more serious calls in ...[More Info](#)
- **CA: San Jose police change policy on burglar alarms**
1.1.12 - San Francisco Chronicle - San Jose, CA- Police officers won't be responding to burglar alarms anymore unless someone can verify that a break-in is actually taking place. ... [More Info](#)
- **CA: Santa Cruz police cuts on the table: Consultant recommends ...**
1.9.12 - Santa Cruz Sentinel - Santa Cruz, CA - He said he also could reduce funding for First Alarm security officers credited ... "If they reduce First Alarm and other positive things in Santa Cruz, ... [More Info](#)
- **CO: Council ends chapter with departure of three members**
12.28.11 - Pueblo Chieftain - Pueblo, CO - Agreeing to spend \$18700 for the police department to purchase computer software to support the city's new false alarm ordinance. ... [More Info](#)
- **FL: Insurance company seeks to collect \$1.4 million from Lake ...**
1.15.12 - Orlando Sentinel - Tavares, FL - Firefighters, dispatched to a reported injury-accident on the turnpike, learned en route that the call was a false alarm. The driver of the fire engine ... [More Info](#)
- **FL: Property tax increase probably necessary to fund viable beach ...**
12.18.11 - Palm Beach Daily News - Palm Beach, FL - Boosting alarm fees and persuading businesses to sign up for a Direct Connect Alarm system. Since the council has made not raising taxes sacrosanct, ... [More Info](#)
- **GA: Council Passes Several New Ordinances**
1.18.12 - 13WMAZ - Macon, GA - ... they can see where the lock is, they can see where the motion detector is on the alarm system," says Councilman Hutto. Council also passed an ordinance ... [More Info](#)
- **GA: Fayetteville moving toward fines for repeat false alarms**
1.25.12 - The Citizen.com - Fayetteville, GA - If you have a security alarm in your home or business in Fayetteville, this applies to you. The idea of adopting a false alarm ordinance in Fayetteville ... [More Info](#)
- **GA: Georgia Seeks to Implement Enhanced Call Verification**
1.24.12 - Security Sales & Integration - The Georgia House of Representatives is seeking to amend a state alarm law to require alarm companies to use alarm verification in an effort to conserve public safety resources, reports Examiner.com. [More Info](#)
- **GA: Proposal would require verification of alarms**
1.8.12 - Examiner.com - Atlanta, GA - In an effort to conserve the resources of emergency personnel, alarm companies would be required to use "alarm verification" under a bill ... [More Info](#)
- **IL: Council OKs more training for alarm installers**
1.26.12 - Alton Telegraph - Alton, IL - Once implemented, the city will require burglar and robbery alarm installers to complete Level 1 training authorized by the Electronic Security Association. [More Info](#)
- **IL: Elk Grove Village pulls alarm ordinance**
1.25.12 - Chicago Daily Herald - Elk Grove, IL - Existing businesses and multifamily complexes would have been grandfathered in but have the option of upgrading to a wireless alarm system with the \$125 ... [More Info](#)

- IL: Illinois town to require radio monitoring of new fire alarms**
 1.13.12 - SecurityInfoWatch - Mount Prospect, IL - As of March 1, 2012, all new commercial fire alarm systems installed in the Village of Mount ... [More Info](#)
- IL: Police Hope to Prevent Gun Shop Burglaries With New Ordinance**
 1.24.12 - Patch.com - New Lenox, IL - Firearms must be stored and protected by a silent alarm that will ... Downrange currently has an alarm system, but it directs to a central system before ... [More Info](#)
- KY: Chief wants more documentation by pawn shops**
 1.15.12 - Richmond Register - Richmond, KY - Last year, Richmond officers responded to 2130 burglar alarms, Brock said. ... Hopkinsville charges \$50 for the fourth false alarm, with an additional \$10 ... [More Info](#)
- MA: Facing fines for false alarms**
 1.6.12 - WWLP 22News - Amherst, MA - Residents with home security systems could find themselves paying fines for false alarms. According to Amherst Police, a bylaw passed at a ... [More Info](#)
- MA: Reaction Blog: Massachusetts Library Uses Local Police Officers to Collect Overdue Books**
 1.4.11 - Security Today - While difficult financial times are forcing cities all over the nation to layoff law enforcement officers, police in a small Massachusetts town apparently have nothing else better to do than attempt to collect overdue books for the local library. [More...](#)
- MD: Police say Chevy Chase is easy target for criminals**
 12.23.11 - Gazette.Net: Maryland Community News Online - Chevy Chase, MD - Although security alarms are a deterrent, due to the high number of false alarms, they are generally a low priority for county police. ... [More Info](#)
- MN: Fire Station Could Charge for False Alarms**
 12.21.11 - KEYC TV - St. James, MN - The St. James Fire Department may soon be charging when they respond to a false alarm at businesses. ... [More Info](#)
- MO: Our View: False alarms a costly distraction for police**
 1.25.12 - The Commercial Dispatch - Columbus, MO - Police responded to 229 alarm calls last month, 77 of which were residential. Most of those were false alarms. But false or not, those calls mean ... [More Info](#)
- NC: State to Bryson City Fire Department: respond to false alarms**
 12.14.11 - Waynesville Smoky Mountain News - Bryson City, NC - Bryson City Fire Department failed its state mandated insurance inspection last week for failing to respond to false alarms. The department would often be ... [More Info](#)
- NJ: All property owners must register alarms prior to Jan. 31**
 1.5.12 - NorthJersey.com - Bergenfield, NJ - The Bergenfield Police Department reminds all property owners with alarms for businesses or homes that the alarms must be registered each year with the ... [More Info](#)
- NJ: Englewood reevaluating alarm system law**
 12.16.11 - NorthJersey.com - Englewood, NJ - The City Council has repealed an alarm system law that required residents to pay fines up to \$200 for false alarms. ... [More Info](#)
- NM: City council to see results of study on red-light cameras**
 1.8.12 - Las Cruces Sun-News - Las Cruces, NM - The council will also discuss the circumstances and possible remedies of an increase in false alarm reports being made to the Mesilla Valley Regional ... [More Info](#)

- **NM: Las Cruces, NM, may amend alarm ordinance**
1.12.12 - SecurityInfoWatch - Las Cruces Sun-News - Las Cruces, NM - The city of Las Cruces, NM, may amend its alarm ordinance due to a high number of false calls. Jan. ... [More Info](#)
- **NM: Our View: Verification could be one answer to false alarm issue**
1.23.12 - Las Cruces Sun-News - Alarm systems in residences and businesses provide the owners and occupants with a measure of security and peace of mind. They also can provide a measure of ...[More Info](#)
- **OK: Law enforcement agencies employ social media to engage with Oklahomans**
1.23.12 - The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City) - After noticing an interest on social media sites about wildfires last year, Oklahoma City Fire Department officials decided to explore ways to use these avenues to inform the public and the news media. [More Info](#)
- **SC: Statistics show Spartanburg's significant crimes decline in 2011**
1.19.12 - Spartanburg Herald Journal - Spartanburg, SC - The False Alarm Reduction Unit completed its seventh year with a total of 3022 alarm ... Of that tally, 65 percent had zero false alarms, the report said. ... [More Info](#)
- **TX: Bexar County raises permit fees on home, business alarms**
1.26.12 - San Antonio Express - San Antonio, TX - For the first time since 2004, Bexar County is increasing fees on alarm system permits for residences and businesses in unincorporated ... [More Info](#)
- **VA: Police Officer of the Year: Officer First Class Todd Owens**
12.26.11 - Patch.com - McLean, VA - PFC Owens promptly responded to the alarm and immediately discovered a front window on the business smashed with broken glass lying outside the business. ... [More Info](#)
- **WI: Alarm Systems Now Require Annual Registration and \$20 Fee**
1.3.12 - Patch.com - Wauwatosa, WI - Measure will require registration of all alarms with \$20 fee, plus penalty of \$50 for failure to register. Wauwatosa property owners who have ... [More Info](#)
- **WI: Tosa implements fee for burglary alarms**
1.4.12 - Wauwatosa Now - Wauwatosa, WI - The owner of property, business or residential, equipped with a security alarm must register that alarm with the Police Department and pay ... [More Info](#)

Industry News

Courtesy of NESAs

- **Del. pharmacies tighten security**
1.25.12 - Delmarva Now - As a result, the state has mandated improved security measures, including floor-to-ceiling gates, sophisticated alarm and surveillance systems, ... [More Info](#)
- **The Investigators: Dual-Sensor Smoke Detectors**
12.16.11 - WMC-TV - "The dual-sensor smoke alarms cost a little bit more, but in reality, you're getting the full protection," said Tennessee Fire Marshal Gary L. West. ...[More Info](#)
- **SIAC Releases Training Tools to Cut False Alarms Caused by User Error**
12.14.11 - Security Sales & Integration - New training materials developed by the Security Industry Alarm Coalition (SIAC) will help alarm companies and central stations decrease the number of false alarm dispatches due to customer error. [More Info](#)
- **NFPA's Robert Solomon Shares 2012 Predictions for Fire/Life-Safety Industry**
1.2.11 - Security Sales & Integration - NFPA Division Manager for Building and Life Safety Codes Robert Solomon discusses what's in store for the fire/life-safety market in SSI's 2012 Industry Forecast. [read more](#)

- SEC charges Utah security company investors with Ponzi scheme**
 12.21.11 - American Fork, Utah - Wendell Jacobson, a Utah real estate magnate who with his son provided the primary startup capital for Platinum Protection, is now facing charges from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission that he and his son have been running a \$220 million real-estate Ponzi scheme - using their membership in the Mormon church to make connections and win the trust of potential investors. Wendell and Allen Jacobson no longer have any involvement in Platinum Protection, based here and one of the major summer-sales-model companies, company CEO Jared Hallows told Security Systems News. [More Info](#)
- Comcast ahead of the curve in security space**
 1.4.12 - Philadelphia - Comcast, based here, led other telecoms in launching a home security/home automation offering in 2010 and is continuing to expand the markets for its professionally installed and monitored Xfinity Home Security. Learn about Comcast's plans for Xfinity in 2012. [More Info](#)
- Lowe's muscles into smart home**
 1.5.12 - CNET - With them, consumers will be able to remotely monitor and control devices in the home, including heating and cooling, home alarm systems, security cameras, ...[More Info](#)
- Ohio fire marshal's panel considers smoke alarms**
 1.2.12 - Deseret News - photo, photoelectric, dual sensor and ionization alarms sit on display in Columbus, Ohio. Ohio's fire marshal has asked a task force to consider ...[More Info](#)
- Nearly 200 Iowans saved by smoke alarms in 2011**
 1.10.12 - ConnectTriStates.com powered by KHQA - The Iowa State Fire Marshall says 186 people in the Hawkeye State were saved by a smoke alarm in 2011. Fire crews were called to a house ... [More Info](#)
- Comcast Widens Home Security Rollout In New Hampshire**
 1.18.12 - Multichannel News - Comcast uses a third-party alarm-monitoring provider, COPS Monitoring, based in Williamstown, NJ, to handle emergency dispatch functions. ... [More Info](#)
- Tips: Understanding Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**
 1.17.12 - Security Today - Each year in America, unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning claims more than 400 lives and sends another 20,000 people to hospital emergency rooms for treatment. The United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) would like you to know that there are simple steps you can take to protect yourself from deadly carbon monoxide fumes. [More...](#)
- Consumers disregard insurance packages, favor lower rates**
 1.19.12 - IFAwebnews.com - From 2010 to 2011, there was a 2% increase in homeowners who have a burglar alarm discount included in their policy. There was a 1% increase in respondents ... [More Info](#)
- It's Time to Offer Real Alarm Response**
 1.19.12 - Our industry has had a good run. We installed and monitored alarms, but as soon as they actually tripped, the police department handled the immediate response. Response is more important than ever, but the ability of police to provide it no longer exists in most of North America. [More Info](#)
- Police Dispatch Quality (PDQ) Award Program Now Accepting Entries**
 1.19.12 - Nominations are being accepted for the seventh annual Police Dispatch Quality (PDQ) Award program. Entries are due Feb. 28, 2012. [More Info](#)
- NC: New Area Code Entering Raleigh Area in March**
 My Fox 8 - Raleigh, NC - Those with automatic dialing technology, including alarm or security systems, abbreviated dialing, or a PBX system, should make the necessary changes to ...[More Info](#)

Please Share Your Newsletters and Tips with Us

We would like to see how you communicate with your alarm users. Please add FARA to your mailing list if you send out Newsletters or mailings with false alarm reduction information. Do you have a brochure that describes your ordinance or program? We would like to see it. Staff will review what we receive and share tips and information with your fellow members in later issues of this newsletter.

Please send your newsletters, tips and brochures to:
False Alarm Reduction Association
10024 Vanderbilt Circle, Unit 4
Rockville, MD 20850
bradshipp@4yoursolution.com

FARA Mission Statement

It is the mission of the False Alarm Reduction Association (FARA) to provide a forum for local government alarm ordinance professionals to exchange information on successful false alarm reduction programs, to serve as a clearinghouse for agencies seeking to reduce false alarms, and to foster an environment of cooperation among public safety, the alarm industry and the alarm users.

Contact Us

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