



InfoLink

Information for Public Safety False Alarm Reduction Professionals

FARA InfoLink November 2014 Edition

- **FARA News**

- What Happens in Vegas...
- It is Easy to Get Involved ...and It Just Might Be Fun
- Holiday Tips and Greetings from the Membership Committee!
- Marketing FARA
- Training & Certification Committee Update
- CAM Spotlight- Sue Smeltzer



- **General News**

- Look For the 2G Sunset
 - Technology of the Future
 - Website Streams Home Security Cameras for Strangers
 - FBI Report Says U.S. Violent Crime Down in 2013
 - Priority Video Alarm Response Update
 - FARA's Believe it or Not
 - News on Door to Door Sales
 - Public Safety Updates
 - Industry News
- Please Share Your Newsletters and Tips with Us
 - FARA Mission Statement
 - Contact Us

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 Partner
(\$5000 or more donation)

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

Gold Partner (\$3000 or more donation)

Arkansas Security Alarm Association

Silver Sponsor (\$1000)

California Alarm Assn.
Maryland Burglar & Fire Alarm Association
Monitronics Security
Vector Security, Inc.

What Happens in Vegas...

By Brad Shipp, FARA Executive Director

You have surely heard the saying What Happens in Vegas Stays in Vegas. That may be true of many things, but what happens at the FARA Symposium to be held at the Flamingo Las Vegas in Las Vegas, NV on April 14 - 16, 2015 will definitely not stay in Vegas.

Like past symposiums out next one presents you with a unique opportunity to learn new techniques and exchange information with your peers. But unlike past symposiums the 2015 version includes an opportunity for you to take a guided tour of the world's largest industry trade show. Each year, ISC West hosts over 1,000 international and domestic security product manufacturer companies and over 26,000 security professionals with over 10,000 products featured on its show floor.



[Click here to download your registration packet that lists the full program of events.](#)

PS: There are more than a few things to occupy your time in Las Vegas in the evenings after the symposium ends each day. **[Click here for more info on dining, shows and events and to download a free visitor guide.](#)**

It is Easy to Get Involved ...and It Just Might Be Fun

By: Brad Shipp, FARA

This year several positions will be up for election at the Vegas Symposium, including:

- Vice President-Electronic Security – Deborah Hansen, Naperville Police Department, Naperville, IL
- Secretary – Shellie Reid, Loudoun County Sheriff's Department, Leesburg, VA
- Associate Director-Electronic Security – Kathleen Schraufnagel, Monitronics, Dallas, TX

Deborah Hansen has indicated that she will not be seeking re-election.

It has been my experience that many who are qualified to serve do not step forward because they either overestimate the time involved or underestimate their own ability to serve.

I would urge you to review the following quotes to learn about current members experiences.

"My time on FARA's Board of Directors has provided me with a wealth of contacts and friends. I am privileged to be a part of a group that represents some of the most dynamic and well-run false alarm reduction programs on the continent. I learn from vendors and industry representatives who are committed to improving communication and reducing false alarms. I am constantly exposed to new and interesting ideas that I can use to further reduce false alarms in my jurisdiction."

Steve Heggemann, Manager- Baltimore County Alarm Reduction Section

"I have been involved with FARA for a number of years as an active member representing the Alarm Association of Florida and over the last few years as a board member. As a member of industry the advantages are numerous. First and foremost is the exchange of information from alarm users, coordinators and industry. To see things from another perspective is

invaluable. There is always something new to learn or a reminder of something you may have forgotten. It has been an honor and privilege to work with such an outstanding organization.

The resources offered by FARA, from newsletters, conferences, educational materials and educational programs are second to none. As a member you have access to all of these resources, but as an active committee member and board member you have the opportunity to develop and see them to fruition. That opportunity to learn and grow can only be achieved by involvement. You will find no better environment to foster your growth in the understanding and reduction of false alarms. In order to be part of this you have to put yourself out there. Don't be hesitant to be join a committee or volunteer to be part of the board. The rewards are yours for the asking!"

Mary Hardy Galloway- DynaFire

"As a member you are already a part of an international group of the most knowledgeable people in the pursuit of reducing false alarms, setting up programs and policies and providing and sharing of information with police services and security professionals all over North America. You have access to all of the information and assistance available.

As past president of FARA and a Board Member I would urge any of you who might be interested in taking a more active and rewarding part in the association, to not be hesitant in becoming more involved and seek a position on the board. Take an active part and be involved in the informed decision making process, the gathering of information on worldwide false alarm prevention. The experience of being on the Board of Directors will provide you with a wealth of knowledge and personal satisfaction of being an integral part of this great association. The knowledge and experience you will gain can only assist you in your chosen professions, saying nothing of the friendships and contacts you will have. I was the first Canadian member on the Board of Directors and everyone made me so welcome. I am very proud to be on the FARA Board of Directors. Get involved and take a seat on the board. You will be surprised at what you have to offer and how much you can learn."

Gerry Miller - Peel Police

"The advantages have been tremendous...successful false alarm reduction, professional contacts with other public safety agencies and the alarm industry are just a few. I can honestly say my job is easier to do with all the knowledge I have gained being on the Board of Directors for FARA. I know that most of us are being asked to do more with less but please don't let that be your excuse not to pursue a position on the Board of Directors. The knowledge, experience and confidence I have gained has greatly assisted me professionally and personally."

Kerri McDonald, CAM- FARA President - Alarm Enforcement Coordinator- Riverside Police Department

"Being on the board has allowed me to be one of the first to get the latest news and updates in False Alarm Reduction and changes within the Alarm Industry. It has also allowed me to become friends with other colleagues throughout the US and Canada.

Don't be afraid to take the step. I didn't know anything about being on a Board of Directors, but the FARA is a training organization and they will walk you through it too!"

Pam Steiger, Administrative Coordinator - Louisville Metro Police Department

For more information on serving on the FARA Board – Contact [Brad Shipp](#) – 301-519.9237

Holiday Tips and Greetings from the Membership Committee!

Kristina Walker and Debbie Hansen, Membership Committee Co-Chairs

The membership committee would like to wish everyone a safe and “false alarm free” holiday season! How might we do that you may ask?????? These suggestions came up during our monthly call and we felt compelled to share:

- Do the commercial sites have extended holiday shopping hours? If so, the alarm/monitoring companies need this information! Automatic arming systems may need to have their schedule changed.
- Sales signs “blowin in the furnace wind”! Yikes! Make sure that all signs are 25-30 feet from motion sensors.
- Extra deliveries to keep up with the holiday shopping demands. Do the delivery drivers have the schedules and pass codes if permitted?
- Black Friday brings out the crazy holiday shoppers trying to enter the store before it opens. Any wiggle room in doors or roll down gates may cause a false activation.
- Those lovely gigantic “blow up” lawn decorations can wreak havoc with the motion sensors when not unplugged after hours. If not unplugged the sensors can pick up the movement of the snow blowing, or the movement of SANTA and the reindeer in the lawn decoration. Please remember to unplug these very popular lawn decorations before you arm your system.
- During this season, it’s easy to blame the alarm system, but we need to remember that many times the system is working as it should, detecting motion/temperature change, alerting the monitoring company that the alarm is being disarmed before the scheduled time!
- Please make sure that you check all areas of the premise to make sure no one is left behind before arming the location for the evening!



From the membership committee to everyone in the association, we hope you have a wonderful holiday season!!!!

Marketing FARA

By Shellie Reid, FARA Secretary

Those familiar with FARA know the association’s value. Four years ago, I was hired as the alarm administrator for a large sheriff’s office. To be honest, I didn’t know what I didn’t know. The outgoing administrator informed me that the position came with “extra” responsibilities including membership on FARA committees. I remember sitting in on those first committee meetings wondering how I had gotten myself into this mess and how I was supposed to produce training materials when I didn’t even know what I was doing.



However, I paid attention, and soon learned that there were resources available through FARA that would enable me to learn how to do my job. Less than six months later, I took (and passed) the Certified Alarm Manager exam. Studying for the exam gave me the tools I needed to succeed in my position. Through the years, I have heard other similar stories. Unfortunately, for every one of those stories, there are likely stories of failure and struggle that we will never hear because they come from people that FARA has not reached.

FARA is on a mission to find those individuals, jurisdictions, and companies that need the resources that FARA offers. To do so, FARA is creating a marketing task force. This group will reach out in new ways and to new audiences. If you have experience in marketing or advertising, or simply a desire to get involved, please contact Kerri McDonald (KMCDONALD@riversideca.gov) or Shellie Reid (shellie.reid@loudoun.gov).

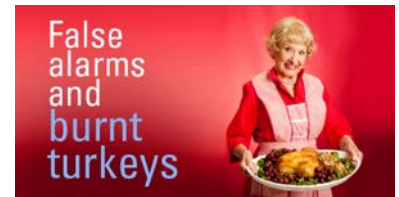
Feel free to contact us with ideas as well. Together, we can help FARA succeed in its mission!

Training & Certification Committee Update

By Cindy Smith – Committee Member

As excited as we all get about the holidays it can cause lots of work for everyone if we don't work together to remind our alarm users about false alarms caused by changes to the environment in their homes and business due to holiday decorations, trees and weather. There are presentations and handouts about how to reduce false alarms around the **Holidays** created and available for your use. Send them to your customers and citizens to help remind them to be aware and keep safe.

To learn more head to the FARA website and look for [training materials](#).



CAM Spotlight- Sue Smeltzer

By Kerri McDonald, FARA President

Throughout the year, we like to feature a FARA member who has achieved their Certification Alarm Manager status. This edition, we would like to celebrate **Sue Smeltzer**, False Alarm Coordinator for The Greenville Police Dept. in N.C. Read on to find out more about Sue!



What is your current position?

I am the False Alarm Coordinator, Greenville Police Department, Greenville, NC.

What are your favorite hobbies or interests?

My hobbies include reading, watching movies and spending time with my family.

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

We joined FARA in 2007. I have been in my position since October 2009. I am the secretary for the Training and Certification Committee.

When did you first obtain your certification?

December 2013

What made you decide to take the exam?

To increase my knowledge base of FARA and false alarm information to better manage the alarm program for our municipality and citizens. I am also a member of the Training and Certification Committee and the certification assists me in my committee duties. I felt it was also a responsible thing to do considering I am on a committee that works to improve training and assist others in becoming certified alarm managers.

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

My supervising Lieutenant and Captain congratulated me on my accomplishment.

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

The resources on the FARA website are very helpful and address most of the issues we face. I want to continue to learn and improve our processes. It has given me a sense of accomplishment and pride. You can never learn too much!

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

Yes! Our committee is working to improve the certification process through online access. There are many helpful tips that would be beneficial to anyone working with an alarm program.

Where is your certificate now?

It is framed and hung on the wall in my cubicle.

Look For the 2G Sunset

By: Joe Carr, UCC

The term 2G refers to second generation cellular service. Throughput is at the heart of a cellular generation. A generation is defined when a new technology is invented that achieves a significantly higher level of throughput. For example, 2G is similar to dial-up modems; 3G delivers multi-megabit speeds; and 4G is characterized by gigabits of throughput.



Since the AMPS/ANALOG Sunset a few years ago security dealers have been installing 2G cellular communicators to transmit alarm signals from the alarm system to the central station monitoring center. Unfortunately, 2G communicators are but a small portion of the cellular carriers business and will not be supported in the near future. The cellular communications industry has seen vast changes in services that current mobile devices have brought. Most mobile devices are now 3G or 4G to support the demand for additional bandwidth to stream video, transfer photos, and many other high bandwidth activities.

Starting in 2011, in an effort to increase service levels to their consumer cell phone customers, cellular carriers started to make their preferred frequencies 3G/4G only. The process is called spectrum harvesting. Similar to how semis must stay in the highway's far right lanes because of their slower speeds, 2G devices will not be allowed on the best frequencies. As the 2G Sunset approaches, spectrum harvesting by the cellular carriers will dramatically alter the performance of 2G hardware based on their allocation of cellular frequencies. To comprehend the effect, the only characteristic a security dealer needs to understand is that lower frequencies penetrate buildings better than higher ones.

For 2G devices this will be a noticeable shift. If they were installed based on the coverage provided by the preferred frequencies, their signal levels will drop as they are forced onto the inferior, shallow penetrating frequencies still supporting 2G. This restriction will not occur all at once. It will appear sporadically across the country and when it does, only 3G/4G devices will be oblivious to the change.

Finally, after December 31, 2016, (date varies by carrier) when the 2G Sunset is complete, it will be just like the Analog Sunset. Anything using 2G will stop working overnight. Only 3G/4G will work from that day forward. There will most likely be no warning of when any one particular area may be affected; some areas may lose communications long before that date. Unlike the AMPS Sunset, there is no one set date for the 2G communicators to stop sending signals.

Content provided by Telguard, a division of Telular Corporation and United Central Control.

Technology of the Future

By Shellie Reid

From November 4-6, the [Secured Cities](#) conference descended on Baltimore, MD. This conference is aimed at those who provide security for schools, transit, and healthcare. The following items may be of interest to FARA's members. (Please keep in mind that this list is not to be considered a recommendation for any one vendor's product).

1. [LEEDIR](#) (Large Emergency Event Digital Information Repository)—begun by LA County Sheriff's Office I believe. During a large disaster or event, this site provides law enforcement agencies a repository to store eyewitness videos and photos so that the agencies own servers don't get flooded and bogged down.
2. [ELERTS](#) The See Say app. This app can be customized, but the main push at the conference was to allow citizens to submit photos of things like unattended baggage in train stations, buses, etc. Citizens can also call directly to a police dispatch center from the app with just the push of a button. However, there are other uses such as notifying city departments of graffiti, access control, maintenance requests...The app can be customized so that the notifications go to the correct party based on what is being reported.
3. [Geofeedia](#)—allows companies or police to monitor social media.
4. [RoboGuard](#)—just because it is cool. This is a robot that roams a fenced perimeter.
5. [Responder Safety Learning Network](#) This free training was developed by several agencies and funded by grants.
6. Digital TV Datacasting uses digital tv signals to send packets of data. This concept won the IACP 2010 technology award and was pioneered by a company in Chantilly, VA ([SpectraRep](#)). A small number of



jurisdictions including the DC metro area are already making use of this technology using public television station signals.

7. Public-private video partnerships that allow law enforcement to access private video when needed. This topic popped up in many of the sessions. Several jurisdictions are exploring having citizens and businesses voluntarily register video systems so that investigators can quickly identify where video may be available if a crime occurs.

Of all of the items listed, the public-private video partnerships may be the most interesting for alarm units. Since most alarm tracking software can track the type of equipment in use, this may be a way to add value to an alarm unit in the eyes of the department. However, no one at the conference seemed to be connecting this concept with their alarm units.

Website Streams Home Security Cameras for Strangers

11.10.14 – SIA

A recently discovered website called Insecam streams footage from more than 73,000 IP cameras that belong to homeowners who haven't changed their default passwords.

This footage allows for anyone's eyes to pry into the homes and businesses of strangers and check in on whomever they choose—including one of the 11,000 cameras located in the United States found on the site.

The sight claims that it is solely highlighting a major security problem. If default usernames and passwords are not changed on private security cameras, then they are open to these threats. Some of the susceptible cameras are from brands such as Foscam, Linksys and Panasonic.

The site has streams into parking lots, stores, living rooms, bedrooms and even baby cribs, said Yahoo News.

Although continuing to offer access into the private lives of strangers, the company said, "this site has been designed in order to show the importance of security."

This is definitely breaking the law because it involves hacking into someone's password-protected account, breaking the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

It's unclear who exactly is behind Insecam, but the domain name is registered with GoDaddy and has an IP address linked to Moscow, said Yahoo News.

[Read More](#)

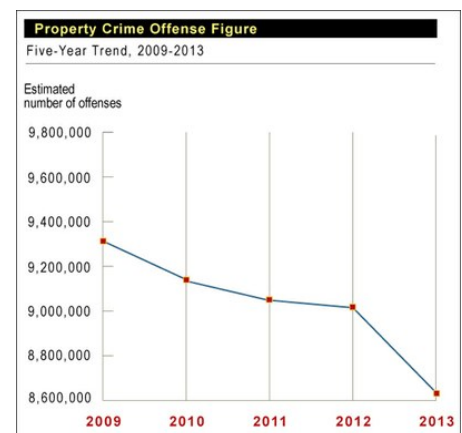
FBI Report Says U.S. Violent Crime Down in 2013

11.10.14 – FBI

The FBI released Crime in the United States, 2013 today, which shows that the estimated number of violent crimes in 2013 decreased 4.4 percent when compared with 2012 figures, and the estimated number of property crimes decreased 4.1 percent. There were an estimated 1,163,146 violent crimes reported to law enforcement last year, along with an estimated 8,632,512 property crimes.

The crime statistics report, issued by the Bureau's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, contains voluntarily submitted data from 18,415 city, county, state, tribal, campus, and federal law enforcement agencies on specific crimes brought to their attention. They include the violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

The primary goals of Crime in the United States? To assess and monitor the nature and type of crime in the nation and to generate reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operations, and management. The data has also been used by criminologists, sociologists, legislators, municipal planners, the media, and other students of criminal justice for research and planning purposes. [More Info](#)



Priority Video Alarm Response Update

By: Cindy Smith, RSI Video Technologies

The Video Verification Committee of the Partnership for Priority Video Alarm Response (PPVAR) has released the PPVAR Video Verified Alarms Best Practices that describes how law enforcement and central stations work together to maximize the value of video verification to reduce false alarms and make more arrests. Over a dozen law enforcement agencies worked with over 30 representatives from the alarm industry building the document. The Best Practices can be downloaded from: http://www.ppvar.org/_asset/qjfs6/video-verified-alarms-best-practices.pdf

The next major PPVAR initiative is for the education committee to create a training curriculum/support materials to train central station operators to be certified on PPVAR best practices. This Central Station operator training is the basis for collateral and educational videos to help train the PSAP operators. A second subcommittee will target training materials for insurance agents and underwriters. The PPVAR is recruiting new members to get involved in the education committee as it begins work this September creating educational materials and curriculums for the PPVAR stakeholders: Central Stations, Law Enforcement and Insurers. There are conference calls every two weeks and the goal is to have a complete curriculum ready before ISC West. Please consider joining the PPVAR and helping as they work with Law Enforcement and the Insurance Industry to build a stronger partnership creating value for professionally monitored video alarm systems. For more information email info@PPVAR.org.

FARA's Believe it or Not

By: Brad Shipp

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 bradshipp@4yoursolution.com and we'll put them in the next InfoLink for all to share!

- **AZ: Lawyer Wearing Only Diaper When Arrested in Home Invasion ...**
11.14.14 -KVOA Tucson News- The female victim managed to trigger a panic alarm in the house, but before leaving, the assailant told them he'd be back to finish the job. Read more here: NBC ... [More Info](#)
- **FL: Bank robber demanded money, then waited for cops**
11.11.14 - WPBF West Palm Beach- According to the Sheriff's Office, employees at the bank sounded an alarm after 3 p.m. Monday when a man entered the bank and handed a teller a note ... [More Info](#)
- **FL: Florida credit card thief arrested after posing for photo with stolen plastic: cops**
11.22.14 - New York Daily News - Her mug shot came four months after her incriminating photo. Florida police arrested 26-year-old Mashana Michelle Harris Tuesday, after she willingly posed for... [More Info](#)
- **MD: Man took cab to rob bank in Prince George's County and left driver 'generous tip'**
11.17.14 - Washington Post - Some thieves have a getaway car. Others hail a cab. Prince George's County Police alleged the 43-year-old Temple Hills man took a cab to a Fort Washington bank, robbed the teller and then got back into the same cab to flee. [More Info](#)
- **ME: Maine flower shop break-in a stunt gone wrong**
11.11.14 - U.S. News & World Report- He says he fell from a third-floor window after realizing his mistake and tripping the alarm. He suffered minor injuries. He says he'd been drinking beer and what ... [More Info](#)
- **MO: Locked inside CVS! Employees Close up while Woman Shops for ...**
11.19.14 -FOX40- "I'm going to answer this, what the heck, and it ended up being CVS general security alarm system that had been silently triggered by me," she said. About 11:30 ... [More Info](#)
- **NJ: Marijuana smoke sets off alarm in Princeton dorm**
11.22.14 - News 12 New Jersey- A dormitory at Princeton University had to be evacuated Wednesday after marijuana smoke set off a fire alarm. According to police, 100 students were evacuated ... [More Info](#)
- **ON: Halloween fog machine sets off school smoke alarm**
10.31.14 - Welland Tribune- Just after 10 a.m. Friday, a fog machine being used for a Halloween party at Ross Public School set off the school's smoke alarms. [More Info](#)
- **WA: Would-be ATM thief makes a big mistake**
11.12.14 -KOMO News- A backup battery kept the alarm and cameras working. Sahara's manager Anna Chapin watched the surveillance footage and pointed out how the thief's scheme ... [More Info](#)
- **WI: "Selfie" leads to burglary arrests in Black River Falls**
10.28.14 -WEAU- On Tuesday, October 23, 2014, just after midnight, City Police responded along with Jackson County authorities to an active burglary alarm at the Wazee Sports ... [More Info](#)

News on Door to Door Sales

Courtesy of NESAs

- **BBB Advisory: Warning About Alarm Company**
10.30.14 - WHSV- Harrisonburg, Va. (WHSV) -- The Better Business Bureau is warning people in Harrisonburg, about an alarm company going door to door trying to sell ... [More Info](#)
- **On Your Side Alert: Warning about door-to-door alarm deceptions**
11.5.14 - WWBT- A family called NBC12 to warn others after they say there were scammed by a deceptive alarm company. A woman says her elderly father-in-law was duped by ...[More Info](#)
- **Huntington Calls Reveal Security Alarm Scam**
11.6.14 - HNN Huntingtonnews.net- The city's Finance Division has received several calls from residents recently that an unlicensed company is going door-to-door offering security alarm services. [More Info](#)
- **BBB on Homes: Research home security companies, their offers**
11.14.14 - Chron.com- Your family is a precious asset, so the safety and protection of family is one major reason why homeowners seek installation of a home security or alarm system. [More Info](#)

Public Safety Updates

Courtesy of NESAs

- **AR: False alarms create public safety concerns**
11.20.14 - THV 11- More and more cities across the country are charging you when your alarm accidentally goes off. The number one reason for false alarms is outdated or ... [More Info](#)
- **AZ: Casa Grande PD apologizes for alarm invoice error**
11.1.14 - KPHO Phoenix- "While the police department alarm coordinator is working to address every complaint or concern received, steps are being taken to ensure this does not occur in ...[More Info](#)
- **CA: Alarming news**
11.20.14 - Chico News & Review- A law firm representing both the California Alarm Association and the Sacramento Area Alarm Association has sent a letter to the city of Chico that warns of ... [More Info](#)
- **CA: Man says San Diego fined him for protecting his home after burglary**
11.19.14 -10News- Team 10 checked into his claims and found a report that outlines major problems and mismanagement with the city's Alarm User Permit Program – a program ... [More Info](#)
- **CA: New rules for pawn shops, massage**
10.29.14 - U-T San Diego-Downtown San Diego - The San Diego City Council revised rules on Tuesday governing pawn shops, massage businesses and emergency alarms... [More Info](#)
- **FL: False alarm fines could increase**
11.22.14 - TBO.com- Petersburg - City police officers have spent less time responding to false alarms from home and business security systems since the city began fining ... [More Info](#)
- **GA: Alarm concerns in Atlanta**
11.7.14 -MyFox Atlanta- But violators aren't discovered until a false alarm triggers a police response, ... Deputy Chief Joseph Spillane says the majority of alarm calls turn out to be false. [More Info](#)
- **IN: Police hope fines curb alarming trend**
10.29.14 -Daily Journal- An alarm at a home or business goes off, and a police officer turns on the emergency lights and rushes to the scene, only to find yet another false alarm. [More Info](#)
- **LA: 2 fire departments to issue fines for false alarms**
11.14.14 - Knoe.com - The new law, approved last week, springs from a rash of false alarms throughout the parish. And it applies only to excessive false alarms that result from faulty ... [More Info](#)
- **MO: Burton looks to free up officers by eliminating some duties**
10.27.14 - Columbia Daily Tribune- Burton said he also would like to implement a system to penalize businesses or residents that have a recurring problem with false burglar alarms, potentially by... [More Info](#)
- **NC: Swain sheriff alarmed over false alarms**
11.19.14 -Smoky Mountain News- The Swain County Sheriff's Office responds to its share of security alarms. Between January and the middle of November, the department has responded to ... [More Info](#)
- **NY: Lake George may add fines for false alarms**
10.27.14 - Glens Falls Post-Star- Lake George officials are considering a new law that will give property owners who have alarm systems an extra incentive to make sure their systems aren't ... [More Info](#)
- **PA: McKeesport looking to better enforce smoke alarm rules**
11.7.14 - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette- McKeesport is exploring ways it can better monitor and enforce ordinances for rental properties — and particularly smoke alarm rules — after a fire killed six ... [More Info](#)

- **PA: Mt. Pleasant council sets budget session**
11.8.14 - Tribune-Review- In other action this week, Acting Police Chief Dan Zilli asked council if they would consider an ordinance that would fine businesses if their burglar alarms went... [More Info](#)
- **PA: Target 11 investigates costs of false alarms**
11.11.14 - WPXI Pittsburgh- When the alarm sounds, emergency crews rush to the scene. That's what they are trained to do. But what happens when they're racing to false alarms, and ...[More Info](#)
- **TN: False alarms keep police busy**
11.12.14 - Shelbyville Times-Gazette- Shelbyville's police force spends an enormous amount of time answering false alarms, the city council was informed last week. The council is discussing adding ... [More Info](#)

Industry News

Courtesy of NESAs

- **Visonic Recalls Amber Personal Emergency Response Pendants ...**
10.31.14 - eNews Park Forest- Remedy: Consumers should immediately contact Visonic or their alarm service provider for instructions on receiving a replacement pendant. Until a new ... [More Info](#)
- **Recalls Recap: Tyco Fire Protection recalls Simplex Fire Alarm ...**
11.22.14 - OregonLive.com- The addressable fire alarm control panel can support up to 2,500 addressable points, fire alarm and emergency voice communications and peer-to-peer ... [More Info](#)
- **Secure Your Home Before You Decorate This Holiday Season**
11.7.14 - Laredo Sun- In 2013, nationally, BBB received over 7,000 complaints against burglar alarm system dealers and monitoring services. Many complaints to BBB allege ... [More Info](#)
- **All smoke alarms are not the same**
10.27.14 - KOMO News- There are two basic types of smoke alarms. Some have are photoelectric sensors. Others use ionization technology. They work in different ways and are better at ... [More Info](#)
- **What Type Of Smoke Alarm Is Best For Your Home?**
11.12.14 - CBS Local- Minneapolis (WCCO) - Smoke alarms are by far the most effective way to get your family out safely when there's a fire. Still, statistics show one out of every... [More Info](#)
- **Smart battery for smoke alarms takes retrofit approach**
11.14.14 - Phys.Org- Sunnyvale, California-based Roost has come up with a WiFi connected 9-volt battery and Roost aims to make it easily smart. It plugs into any old smoke alarm to ... [More Info](#)
- **The home security device that's always listening**
11.20.14 - CNN- Small, round and plastic, Point looks like a traditional smoke alarm crossed with a speaker. Sounds are matched with data from the other sensors to figure out ... [More Info](#)
- **D.C. Police Gain Access to Private Surveillance**
11.1.14 – WTOP - Police in the District of Columbia are teaming up with a private security firm to dramatically increase the number of surveillance cameras available to investigators. [More Info](#)
- **Alarm terminates KXNT radio host's slumber**
10.31.14 - Las Vegas Review-Journal - The new alarm system comes equipped with sensors that hone in on the noise of breaking glass. And Diaz's surround-sound speakers are blasting the sound of ... [More Info](#)
- **Convicted burglar shares insight into break-ins, tips for keeping your ...**
11.19.14 -Alabama's News Leader- If you go up to a door and the TV is on, a light is on, that's a deterrent, so were dogs and alarms," he said. "If there was an alarm sticker on the door, it was a no ... [More Info](#)
- **Smart-Home Devices Fuel Rising Residential Tide**
10.31.14 – Security Sales & Integration - Find out why no service providers are better positioned and more qualified to deliver desirable smart-home offerings to homeowners than security companies. [More Info](#)
- **Physical security to figure prominently in the 'Internet of Things' market**
10.27.14 – Security Info Watch - Memoori predicts global market for IoT in smart buildings will rise to over \$85B by 2020... [More Info](#)
- **PA: Super-regional gets \$25m**
11.5.14 – Security Systems News - Lancaster, PA - A super-regional security company has received a \$25 million senior secured facility. What will it use the new funds for? [More Info](#)
- **Washington Alarm acquires**
11.10.14 - Security Systems News - Seattle - Washington Alarm has acquired a local competitor. COO Shannon Woodman discusses the company's 2015 acquisition strategy. [More Info](#)
- **ADS expands footprint**
11.12.14 - Security Systems News - Nashville, TN - ADS Security is extending its reach throughout the Southeast with a purchase in the Carolinas. [More Info](#)

- **CSG buys two in Texas**
10.29.14 - Security Systems News - Tulsa, OK - Central Security Group has added nearly 4,000 customers and RMR of \$120,000 with its recent acquisition of two security and home automation providers. [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

False Alarm Reduction Association
10024 Vanderbilt Circle, Unit 4
Rockville, MD 20850
Email: info@faraonline.org
<http://www.faraonline.org>

Comments and suggestions regarding FARA's InfoLink are both encouraged and welcomed. If you would like to submit an article for publication, or if you have any questions or concerns about this newsletter, please contact the FARA Board of Directors at 301/519-9237, or by e-mail at: info@faraonline.org

Submitted articles in this newsletter are the expressed opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Officers and Directors of FARA.