

InfoLink

Information for Public Safety False Alarm Reduction Professionals

FARA InfoLink November 2015 Edition

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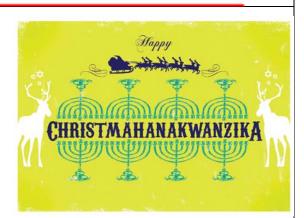
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Symposium Info Packet Available

FARA has selected cities, dates and hotels for the next two Symposiums.

- 2016 4/19 to 4/21 Holiday Austin Midtown, Austin TX
- 2017 4/25 to 4/27 Embassy Suites by Hilton Nashville at Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN

Click Here for a full information packet on the Austin Symposium!



FARA's Believe it or Not

By: Brad Shipp

- Plane forced to make emergency landing after goats farting in the ...
 11.3.15 Mirror.co.uk The plane's smoke indication alarm sounded as the result of exhaust gasses and manure produced by the billy and nanny goats, according to the Aviation ... More Info
- KS: Washing machine malfunction sets of fire alarm in Pratt home ...
 10.29.15 Pratt Tribune Grain markets ... Washing machine malfunction sets of fire alarm in Pratt home Thursday morning. A faulty washing machine was the cause of haze in Pratt home ... More Info
- MA: Smoke Machine Mishap, Suspicious Truck, Driver Passes Sobriety ...
 11.2.15 Patch.com 10:01 p.m. A smoke machine at the Concord Free Library set off a fire alarm. Sat., Oct. 31.
 7:57 a.m. A resident of Concord Commons called police about a ... More Info
- LA: Man hides in McDonald's, makes milkshake
 11.7.15 -KOBI-TV NBC5 / KOTI-TV NBC2 After an alarm at 2:30 Friday morning, police say it appears Metcalfe hid out until after closing hours then emerged when the staff had gone home. "Mr. Metcalfe ... More Info
- FL: Cops: Man read Bible during attempted bank robbery in downtown ...
 11.13.15 Orlando Sentinel The teller pushed the silent alarm as he was reading, police said. According to the police report, the teller said she would have to go to the back to get the money ... More Info
- NC: Deer Breaks In To Salisbury School
 11.9.15 WFMY News 2 Salisbury Police were called to Isenberg Elementary School just before 2 a.m. Friday after an alarm was tripped on the campus. When officers arrived, they ... More Info
- NC: Unexplained pizza box found in Randolph dryer before fire Monday
 11.16.15 Duke Chronicle Another East Campus fire caused a residence hall to be evacuated Monday—a student found a pizza box in a dryer before the fire alarm was activated. More Info
- TX: Sooners fan mistakes courthouse for Hilton, winds up in jail
 11.16.15 Waco Tribune-Herald Deputies responding to a burglar alarm at the courthouse about 8:15 a.m.
 Saturday found Harold Anthony Schroeder, 35, of Oklahoma City, curled up between ... More Info
- CA: Modesto burglary suspect caught showering in home
 11.24.15 Modesto Bee Ontel security officers responded to the home on Saturday afternoon after an intruder tripped the burglary alarm. Al Wood ... 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 bradshipp@4yoursolution.com and we'll put them in the next InfoLink for all to share!

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DIY vs Pro Monitored Home Security: How Law Enforcement Responds to 911 Calls

11.10.15 - CEPro

Controversy brews over the DIY and MIY (monitor-it-yourself) market for home security versus systems that are professionally installed and monitored by a central station. Detective H.W. "Robbie" Robinson comments on police response to alarms and 911 emergency calls.

Self-monitored DIY home security systems are disrupting the longstanding tradition of professional alarm monitoring. How much the new monitor-it-yourself (MIY) paradigm will affect the current model is a big question for the industry. But a bigger question for the entire population is: How will MIY security systems affect police response to alarm events?

CE Proposed this question to one very outspoken police detective and code enforcer, Detective H.W. "Robbie" Robinson of the Phoenix Police Code Enforcement Unit, Alarm Inspections. His lengthy response is below, but first we address some of the players and processes in the security alarm ecosystem.



Read the whole story

2014 U.S. Fire Loss Report

9.15 - NFPA

More Info

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 1,298,000 fires in 2014. These fires resulted in 3,275 civilian fire fatalities, 15,775 civilian fire injuries and an estimated \$11.6 billion in direct property loss. There was a civilian fire death every 2 hours and 41 minutes and a civilian fire injury every 33 minutes in 2014. Home fires caused 2,745, or 84%, of the civilian fire deaths. Fires accounted for four percent of the 31,644,500 total calls. Eight percent of the calls were false alarms; 64 percent of the calls were for aid such as EMS.

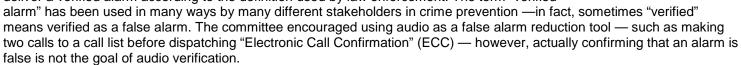
Get all the details in their free, 48-page report.

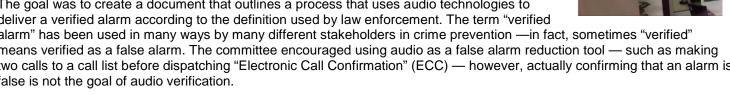
Best Practices for Audio Alarm Verification

10.14.15 - SecurityInfoWatch

The Partnership for Priority Verified Alarm Response (PPVAR) recently released its "Audio Verification Best Practices" that outline the best practices for Central ... The committee was dedicated to create a document where audio verification is used to catch the bad guys; resulting in more arrests because law enforcement gives higher priority response to crimes in progress than to an unverified alarm.

The goal was to create a document that outlines a process that uses audio technologies to deliver a verified alarm according to the definition used by law enforcement. The term "verified





Smoke Solutions Releases SmokeCloak EASY Security Fog System ...

11.4.15 - Security Sales

WELLINGTON, Fla. — SmokeCloak EASY, a security solution that combines fog coverage with DNA marking of intruders, was announced Tuesday by Smoke Solutions.

The SmokeCloak DNA security fog system fills an area with thick and disorienting fog and deposits a unique, location-specific DNA marker on skin, clothing and stolen items. SmokeCloak EASY is the latest in technology from MSS Professional A/S. . More Info



Monitronics' Industry Liaison, Kathleen Schraufnagel joins IQ Certification Board

11.27.15 - SourceSecurity.com

During the October IQ board meeting, Kathleen Schraufnagel, Industry Liaison for Monitronics was chosen as the newest member to join the IQ Certification Board to fill a vacant seat. She was also selected to head up the Membership Committee.

Kathleen Schraufnagel's Experience

Schraufnagel has been in the security industry since 1991. She started her career in the security industry with Brink's Home Security / Broadview Security where she worked for 20 years. She joined Monitronics in 2011 where she spent her first 18 months learning about the contract monitoring side of the business and working closely with alarm companies. She then became the Coordinator for their guard services department and then also took on the responsibilities of serving Monitronics as their Industry Relations Liaison. Read the Whole Article



Construction causes nearly half of fire alarm activations on campus

11.9.15 - UT The Daily Texan

Excess heat and dust caused by campus construction projects caused 48 percent of fire alarm activations in 2014, according to data from Fire Prevention Services. Roughly 10 percent of alarms corresponded to valid smoke or heat activations.

UT fire marshal Jimmy Johnson said a variety of construction-related activities could cause a fire alarm to inadvertently go off. In 2014, 143 fire alarm calls were reported while contractors worked on campus construction, Johnson said. Students using the microwave or stove inside dorms to cook caused most alarm activations because of smoke or heat.

"Alarm systems in general have several different types of detection systems. Some are heat detectors; some are smoke detectors," Johnson said. "They could be doing construction demolition, which can cause dust which will affect the smoke detectors, or they could be doing welding in an area which can cause heat and smoke, which can cause the systems to go off. A variety of general construction techniques [activate fire alarms]."

More Info

In taking on cosmetologists — and other licensed professions — the White House may have picked a fight it can't win

11.9.15- Washington Post

The White House put out a <u>report on the issue over the summer</u>, and has since then been encouraging state legislatures and governors to take a closer look at their licensing laws with an eye towards rolling some back. It's also requested \$15 million for the Department of Labor to identify places where licensing requirements might be excessive. <u>More Info</u>

News on Door to Door Sales

Courtesy of NESA

- FTC SCAM ALERT: House Alarms Can't Stop Scammers
 - 11.12.15 SpaceCoastDaily.com But even the best house alarms can't stop everything like a scammer walking ... We heard about a new house alarm scam at the FTC's recent Common Ground ... More Info
- Utah consumers' No. 1 complaint: alarm companies
 - 10.22.15 Salt Lake Tribune Home alarm companies have surged to the top of the list of consumer complaints in Utah, a state investigator told a consumer protection conference on ... <u>More Info</u>
- Man Attempting to Sell Home Security Services Shoots, Kills San ...
 - 11.9.15 Security Sales San Antonio police say Richard Luis Amezquita, 35, shot 53-year-old ... at a San Antonio house shot and killed the homeowner on Saturday, ... More Info
- Security System Sale Alarms Elderly Woman's Family
 - 10.1.15 WOWT They said Protection 1 promised to pay any cost to hook up the old alarm. The 88-year old alarm customer said, "I usually don't even answer the door but I don't ... More Info
- Police warn of phony salesman in the South Hills
 - 10.6.15 WPXI Pittsburgh According to a Nixle advisory from Jefferson Hills police, 20-year-old Jens Peterson pretended to work for an alarm company when he showed up at a home in ... More Info
- Home Security Firm Cries Foul Over Tactics
 - 10.7.15 Courthouse News Service Richmond, Va. (CN) A home security company says three deceitful competitors convinced its customers to switch to their services by impersonating alarm ... More Info
- Lawsuit Filed in Virginia After Security Sales Reps Duped ...
 - 10.8.15 Security Sales Utah-based companies Elite Home Security and NorthStar Alarm Services are accused ... Security customers while pretending to be alarm systems technicians... More Info
- Your Stories: Security sales controversy
 - 10.9.15 13WHAM-TV If you are having problems with your alarm, make sure you document it. Write down the dates and times of your problems, the names of people you talked with, ... More Info
- Home Security Company Vivint Under Fire in Louisiana for Complaints of Aggressive Sales Tactics
 10.23.15 SSI Home security company Vivint is being held accountable for complaints of questionable sales tactics in a Louisiana county. It is being accused of overly aggressive sales tactics and has until Jan. 1 to conduct an internal investigation into the complaints. More Info
- Watchdog: Don't believe door-to-door alarm salesmen
 - 10.29.15 Dallas Morning News- An alarm salesman one you didn't ask to drop by is knocking insistently at your front door. If you open the door, he will try to sell you an alarm system with a ... <u>More Info</u>
- Police looking for man accused of targeting residents with alarm ...
 - 11.2.15 Deseret News Unified police want to question Larry Warren Outcalt, 33, in regard to a recent incident in which an 87-year-old woman paid \$4,800 to have an alarm system ... More Info
- ADT or not? Deceptive alarm sales target homes
 - 11.4.15 ABC2 News Many of us buy a home alarm to give our families a little bit of security. But an alarming deception is targeting hard working homeowners, who are just trying to ... More Info
- Alarm raised with police on cold callers
 - 11.5.15 Spalding Guardian Lincolnshire police have been alerted by a concerned resident that an alarm company are "cold calling" residents, trying to sell them intruder alarm systems. More Info
- Alarm company signs can attract scammers: What to do
 - 11.6.15 Fox17 Homeowners who have spent their hard-earned money on an alarm system are now finding themselves targets. Many of us buy a home alarm to give our ... More Info
- Don't Waste Your Money: Alarm salesmen should set off bells
 - 11.10.15 WTOL.com Many of us buy a home alarm to give our families extra security, but some homeowners who have spent their money on these security systems find they are ... More Info
- Don't Get Duped by Offers of 'Free' Alarm System Installations
 - 11.16.15- SSI Buyers should beware of these "free" systems, and alarm companies that... More Info
- Alarm company addresses allegations
 - 11.24.15 Pensacola News Journal A local home security system dealer said that his company has fired an independent sales representative who allegedly told potential clients he was affiliated... More Info
- Couple gets money back after paying thousands for smoke detector ...
 - 11.25.15 News 10NBC Tommye signed up for an alarm system installation. The next day, someone came over sold them a fire and smoke detector set for more than \$6,000. Tommye ... More Info

Public Safety Updates

Courtesy of NESA

- AB: False alarm bylaw now in effect
 - 10.5.15 Drayton Valley Western Review RCMP would like to let the public know that the false alarm bylaw is now in effect in both the Town of Drayton Valley and County of Brazeau. Ticket costs start at ... More Info
- AR: Alarm systems send LRPD, LRFD on thousands of false calls
 - 11.9.15 KATV The city allocates more than \$110 million to both departments every years, but some of those resources are wasted on false alarm calls. More than 10 percent of ... More Info
- AR: City of Little Rock Works to Reduce False Alarms
 - 9.28.15 –KARK "We've said all along that our top priority is not to make money regarding false alarms, it's to further reduce alarm incidents," says Treasury Manager Scott ... <u>More Info</u>
- AR: False alarms put strain on emergency services
 - 11.8.15 KATV Just in Little Rock alone this year, more than 17,000 calls for police ended up being false alarms more than 3,000 were false alarm calls for the Little Rock Fire ... More Info
- AZ: False alarms cost CG \$66K from 2013-14
 - 10.28.15 TriValley Central Casa Grande Police reportedly responded to over 1,600 false alarm calls between 2013 and 2014, costing the city roughly \$66,000 in fees that could have ... More Info
- AZ: Glendale officials to address growing number of false burglar alarms
 10.16.15 YourWestValley.com Glendale, Ariz. City officials are moving to address a growing trend in false burglar alarms and the resulting waste of police time by replacing the present ... More Info
- AZ: Paradise Valley looks to overhaul townwide residential alarm system
 10.27.15 Paradise Valley Independent The Town of Paradise Valley has been in the alarm business since 1984 but as the hardware and infrastructure has become outdated town leaders are looking ... More Info
- CA: False residential alarms keep police busy
 - 11.11.15 Los Altos Town Crier Between Nov. 2 and 9, the Los Altos Police Department responded to 23 residential alarms, none of which was a burglary in progress. "We treat every call as if ... More Info
- CA: Los Banos police to issue fines for false alarms
 - 11.14.15 Los Banos Enterprise Los Banos police plan to issue fines to residents and businesses with alarm systems that issue too many false alarms. Effective after the New Year, police will ... More Info
- CO: City sets false alarm fee for 2016
 - 10.9.15 Lamar Ledger Fire Chief Jeremy Burkhart the fees are \$50 for the third alarm, \$100 for the fourth, \$150 for the fifth and for every sixth and subsequent alarm would be \$200. More Info
- ID: False fire alarm fines
 - 9.28.15 -Idaho State Journal- Starting in October, businesses that repeatedly have false fire alarm calls will be fined by the Pocatello Fire Department if it has to respond to more than three false alarms in six months. More Info
- IL: Champaign residents and businesses reminded to obtain alarm ...
 - 10.6.15 WAND Champaign Champaign officials are reminding residents and businesses to register their alarm systems, in accordance with the city's municipal code. More Info
- IN: False alarm calls increase in Clinton; ordinance likely to pass
 - 11.20.15 WTHITV.com For more than a few years, Strohm and the Chief of Police have been trying to get an ordinance passed regarding false alarm calls. And recently they've been ... More Info
- KS: Harvey County Commission approves increase of alarm fees
 - 11.6.15 KAKE Harvey County, Kan.- The Harvey County residents who have alarm systems monitored by Harvey County's Communications Center will soon ... <u>More Info</u>
- KS: Kansas Community to Begin False Alarm Fine Program
 - 11.5.15 Security Sales Officials in Salina, Kansas, say the city's police department responded to more than 11,000 alarm calls, for both homes and businesses, from 2009 to 2013. More Info
- LA: New Orleans police to roll out new false alarm program
 - 10.1.15 New Orleans City Business New Orleans police are planning to roll out a new system for dealing with false burglar alarms with residents and businesses facing steeper fines that culminate ... More Info
- LA: Slow police response times dominate concerns
 - 10.29.15 WWL The city also passed a false alarm ordinance that Harrison hopes will cut down on false alarms, which now account for a third of all calls for service. We already ... More Info
- MI: Ada looks at requiring emergency access key system for all ...
 - 11.13.15 MLive.com "Currently if we respond to a fire alarm in the middle of the night, a lot of times we have to wait until someone gets there to even get inside," Murray told the board ... More Info
- MI: Detroit police response times down, but official numbers questioned
 11.14.15 MLive.com As for hold-up alarms, those too "should never have gone to (priority) 2." Once those categories were dropped, the effect was immediate. Police were responding ... More Info

- MO: State rep calls out city manager after long wait for police
 9.28.15 -ABC17News.com While his neighbor waited for a police officer to investigate why his home alarm system activated, Caleb Jones questioned Columbia's political system. More Info
- NE: Beatrice False Alarm Policy To Remain in Place
 9.29.15 kwbe It appears the Beatrice city policy on charging for repeated emergency response to false alarms, will stay the same for now. Currently, the city charges a fee of ... More Info
- NY: County in New York Passes False Alarm Law Requiring Permits ...
 10.22.15 Security Sales A \$50 permit is required for buildings using alarm systems that are monitored by a ...
 Ulster County has adopted a law that will implement fines for false alarms ... More Info
- OH: Too many false alarms will soon cost you in Wheeling
 10.13.15 WTOV Steubenville That will soon not be the case in Wheeling, after city council unanimously passed an ordinance that outlines some rules for alarm owners, along with fines to be ... More Info
- OK: Broken Arrow Vision 2025 vote could lead to many road ...
 11.7.15 kjrh.com "Like my alarm system went off one night," he said. "It took the officer like 23 minutes to get here and they ain't [sic] supposed to take that long." Election day in ... More Info
 ON: Bylaw reduces number of false alarms
- 11.19.15 -Brantford Expositor A bylaw introduced July 1 is making "a positive impact" on reducing the incidence of false alarm calls in Brantford, police Chief Geoff Nelson told members of the ... More Info
 PA: Alarm Registration Required for City Homes and Businesses
- PA: Alarm Registration Required for City Homes and Businesses
 10.12.15 WHSV Earlier this year, the Alarm Permit Program was developed to help reduce the number of false alarms received every day from security systems. In Harrisonburg ... More Info
 PA: False Alarm Fire Calls A Problem In Chester County: Report
- 11.27.15 Patch.com Berwyn Fire Chief Eamon Brazunas recently asked the board of supervisors to implement a policy that would limit false alarm fire calls, according to the Daily ... More Info
- PA: Tired of false security alarms that bring police response, Gilford will ...
 10.28.15 The Laconia Daily Sun Gilford False security and fire alarms could prove to be costly to businesses and residents in this town starting next year, as town officials move to enforce a ... More Info
- PA: Tredyffrin fire chief calls for false alarm call enforcement
 1.26.15 Daily Local News Tredyffrin A township fire chief last week called on the board of supervisors to help enforce a policy that will hopefully cut down on repeat false alarm ... More Info
- TX: False Alarms: Council Approves Escalating Fines, Alarm System ...
 11.13.15 Security Sales ... Alarm System Registration in Abilene, Texas. Ordinance passed after 95% of alarm calls Abilene Police Department responded to in 2014 were false alarms. More Info
- WA: Othello Council passes false alarm ordinance
 10.2.15 Columbia Basin Herald Othello Othello City Councilmembers recently passed an ordinance which allows the city to bill alarm holders when they have three or more false alarms in ... More Info
- WA: Residents mailed incorrect invoices with false alarm fines ...
 10.19.15 Bellevue Reporter Many Bellevue residents received letters this month alerting them to overdue accounts and fines stemming from the city's much maligned false alarm program ... More Info
- WI: Cost of calling 911: Why some in the Village of Pewaukee are afraid ...
 10.1.15 fox6now.com Carole Stamm is on a mission to change the Village of Pewaukee's false alarm ordinance after and her neighbors were charged \$19,956 when their new ... More Info
- WV: Wheeling Council Approves False Alarm Fines
 10.7.15 Wheeling Intelligencer Wheeling City residents and business owners may have a slight reprieve from the newly adopted false alarm ordinance and its associated penalties, as the ... More Info
- VA: Prince George joins list of other localities requiring registration of ...
 11.6.15 WWBT NBC12 News Police in Prince George are asking residents and businesses to register their alarms or expect to pay a fee. The county must now have contact information on file ... More Info

Industry News

Courtesy of NESA

- Convicted Oklahoma Burglars Give Tips To Keep You Safe
 11.11.15 News On 6 Another convicted burglar, John Brown, agreed about the alarm system being ... Get an alarm system because if it goes have, you know police is coming and it's ... More Info
- Former salesman urges Fayetteville to toughen law for door-to-door ...
 10.19.15 Fayetteville Observer McWaters has given up home alarm sales but not the urge to go into neighborhoods. These days, he is voluntarily promoting Nextdoor a free, private website ... More Info

- Central Stations Grapple with Telecommunications Challenges
 - 10.14.15 SecurityInfoWatch Collecting data and anecdotes is important at this time, says Louis T. Fiore, chair of CSAA's Alarm Industry Communications Committee (AICC), because of the ... More Info
- Exploring Video Verification's Many Benefits
 - 10.14.15 Campus Safety Magazine Video verification has become a powerful tool in the arsenal to prevent false alarms and fortify security at the protected premises. For physical security, it bolsters ... More Info
- The Impact of Central Monitoring Software
 - 10.14.15 SecurityInfoWatch If something does require attention, the system automatically pulls up any relevant security systems in the area of the alarm, such as surveillance cameras, and ... <u>More Info</u>
- New system could warn of fires outside the house
 - 11.2.15 WTOP "It's basically a wire that heats up and sends an electronic signal that would be connected to your home smoke alarm system or an independent alarm." More Info
- Alarm Signs Help Or Hurt?
 - 11.13.15 WFMY News 2 Do you have an alarm sign in your front yard? The company gives it to you it's free advertising for them. And it sorta makes you feel like criminals will see it and ... More Info
- Vivint is latest big player to go ASAP
 - 10.6.15 SSN- Provo, Utah—ADT adopted ASAP to PSAP in August, now Vivint is doing the same. More Info
- ASAP Network widens with addition of CMS
 - 11.2.15 SecurityInfoWatch ASAP utilizes ANSI standard protocols developed cooperatively by the Association of Public Communications Officials (APCO) and the Central Station Alarm ... More Info
- Stanley Security Implements ASAP in Richmond, Virginia
 - 11.20.15 Looking ahead, Walker commented, "We're moving forward to expand our ASAP implementation at Stanley to include the other PSAPs in the DC area and have set our sights on going live in Houston in early 2016." More Info

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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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.

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