



# InfoLink

Information for Public Safety False Alarm Reduction Professionals

## FARA InfoLink December, 2013

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## Where Has The Time Gone?

*By Katherine Rudover, Windsor Police Service, Ontario, Canada*

As I sit and write the December article on behalf of the Membership Committee, I can't help but wonder where 2013 has gone.

Throughout the year the Membership Committee has been actively working on recruiting new members along with reaching out to individuals and agencies that have allowed their membership to lapse.

It's important to remind everyone that you don't have to be on the Membership Committee to make a referral – as a matter of fact we depend on your suggestions. If you know of someone or an agency that could benefit as a FARA member, the committee would like to hear from you. In addition, if your contact information changes, please be sure to update your profile on the FARA website or let Brad know. It's important to keep our contact list up to date.

On behalf of the Membership Committee, we would like to extend our very best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season!



Katherine Rudover  
Alarm Coordinator  
Windsor Police Service



## 2014 Symposium Fun Facts

*By: Mary Jensby*

If you are wondering why you should attend the FARA Conference in April 2014 please read the Fun Facts Below:

- Baltimore, Maryland has one of the richest histories of all the cities on the east coast of the United States. With its close proximity to Washington D.C., it is frequented by both visitors to and natives of the nation's capital. Baltimore has long played a role in the nation's history, but here are 7 things you don't know about Baltimore, Maryland.
- The tallest building in Baltimore is the Legg Mason Building which has 40 floors.
- During the 1800s, Baltimore was the second greatest port of entry by immigrants to the USA.
- The city of Baltimore is an independent city, meaning that it is not part of any county in Maryland. It was at one time part of Baltimore County that now borders it.
- Baltimore was the first city in the nation to implement city-wide 311 service as a non-emergency hotline.
- The name Baltimore comes from Lord Baltimore, the founder and proprietor of the colony of Maryland. The name "Baltimore" translates from the Irish language as meaning "Town of the Big House".



The Program is set for the 2014 Symposium at the Embassy Suites BWI hotel from April 28 to May 1, 2014.

[Download the full registration packet](#)

[Download the Reimbursement Application](#)

## Mid-Atlantic Chapter Scoop

By Shellie Reid, President

On November 13, 2013, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter met with the Maryland Burglar and Fire Alarm Association (MDBFAA) at the annual joint meeting. MDBFAA graciously provided lunch before the meeting and hosted a social after the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, the chapter will be holding elections for two board positions: Director (public safety) and Associate Director (alarm industry). The "job" descriptions for these positions are shown below:

### **Director(s)**

1. Promote all of the objectives of the Chapter regionally
2. Perform such duties as assigned by the President and Board of Directors to whom s/he shall report
3. Serve as the Election Official for the election of the Secretary
4. In case the President cannot attend a meeting, the Director with the longest tenure on the Board shall serve as President Pro Tempore for the session

### **Associate Director(s)**

1. Serve as the Board liaison representing the interests of the Chapter's associate members
2. Assist the Board in developing more value added programs for associate members
3. Provide advice to the Board on industry and/or alarm user related matters
4. Share pertinent information with members as the need arises

If you are a FARA member in the Mid-Atlantic area and would like to throw your hat in the ring for one of these positions, please contact Shellie Reid at [shellie.reid@loudoun.gov](mailto:shellie.reid@loudoun.gov).

You can be a star!



Take the **Certified Alarm Manager** exam at the 2014 FARA Symposium and show your knowledge. Click on Certification on the Info for Members tab at [faraonline.org](http://faraonline.org) for a four step plan.

# FARA Alarm User Site Launched

By: Brad Shipp, FARA

FARA has created a site for alarm users <http://alarmuser.org/>. The site includes information to help alarm users use their systems effectively while reducing false alarms. It also includes information on:

- How to avoid false alarms.
- How to pick the right company to install, monitor and service a system.
- Types of system and general information on how to use an alarm system.

FARA members are encouraged to link to the site in order to help educate alarm users.

**FARA**  
FALSE ALARM REDUCTION ASSOCIATION

## Alarm User Information

HOME   AVOID FALSE ALARMS   FIND THE RIGHT COMPANY   TYPES OF SYSTEMS   CONSUMER PUBLICATIONS   CONTACT FARA

### You Can Avoid False Alarms



The False Alarm Reduction Association is committed to reducing false alarms. Members are employed by government and public safety agencies, along with alarm industry and other professionals.

We have created a wealth of information to help alarm users use their systems effectively while reducing false alarms.

**Click on the item below to learn more about how you can use your alarm system without causing false alarms.**

- [How you can avoid false alarms.](#)
- [How to pick the right company to install, monitor and service your system.](#)
- [Types of system and general information on how to use your alarm system.](#)
- [Available publications.](#)
- [If you need help to reduce false alarms feel free to contact us.](#)

And of course if you share our commitment to reducing false alarms we invite you to join our association. [Click here to learn how.](#)

### False Alarm Prevention for Banks

SEARCH ENTIRE SITE

Type to search, then press enter

#### ALARM SYSTEM INFO

- [Home](#)
- [Avoid False Alarms](#)
- [Find the Right Company](#)
- [Types Of Systems](#)
  - [Burglar Alarm Systems](#)
  - [Fire Alarm Systems](#)
  - [Holdup-Robbery-Panic Alarm Systems](#)
- [Consumer Publications](#)
- [Contact FARA](#)

[Administration Login](#)

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## FARA's Believe it or Not

By: Brad Shipp, FARA

From Recent News headlines –

- **AL: VIDEO: Ghost Tries to Rob Liquor Store**  
10.20.13 - FOX 8 Cleveland - Anniston, Ala. (CNN/WIAT) — Halloween came a little early for a liquor store in Alabama. After a burglary alarm was... [More Info](#)
- **CT: Ex-liquor store worker charged with beer theft for party**  
11.16.13 - The Fairfield Citizen - Lorraine M. Hutchinson , 39, of Black Rock Turnpike, was arrested on a warrant Wednesday with sixth-degree larceny for allegedly stealing from her now former employer. [More Info](#)
- **FL: Florida student suspended for setting off fire alarm while twerking**  
12.5.13 - Death and Taxes - A student at North Naples Middle School has been suspended from school because his attempt at twerking accidentally set off the fire alarm. "The principal ... [More Info](#)
- **FL: This crook basically stumbled into being arrested by police**  
12.3.13 - Odd News via Yahoo! News - We have a terrible addiction to strange stories out of Florida here at Odd News. [More Info](#)
- **VT: Naked man charged with burglary**  
11.4.13 - WCAX-TV Vermont - Vermont police say they've filed charges against a man who was found unclothed in another person's house. [More Info](#)
- **WI: Rhinelander Burglary Suspect's Tracks in Snow Lead to Arrest**  
11.27.13 - WSAW Wausau - A police officer in the right place and the freshly fallen snow are what investigators say lead to the arrest of a burglary suspect. [More Info](#)

Do you have any stories you would like to share about stupid criminals or 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 [news@faraonline.org](mailto:news@faraonline.org) and we'll put them in the next InfoLink for all to share!

## 7 Steps to Reducing False Fire Alarms

by Robin Hattersley Gray - *Campus Safety Magazine* [More Info](#)

Education, technology, regular maintenance and the appropriate discipline of pranksters are just some of the ways you can begin to address this problem.

The results of Campus Safety magazine's [annual fire survey](#) are in, and once again, false/nuisance alarms continue to be a thorn in the sides of university, school and hospital protection professionals. Nearly half (47 percent) of survey respondents indicated that false alarms are among their four biggest fire safety challenges.

Whether false/nuisance alarms are caused by burned popcorn, shower steam, lack of maintenance, poor system design, careless contractors or pranksters playing a practical joke, there is nothing amusing about them. Campuses that don't address this issue run the risk of wasting precious public safety resources each time an officer is dispatched to check on yet another red herring. Additionally, students, patients, faculty and staff stop taking fire alarms seriously when a fire alarm system regularly goes into alarm needlessly.

Here's how you can reduce the number of false and nuisance alarms on your campus.

1. **Appropriately discipline pranksters:** Because 8.5 percent of false U.S. fire alarms are malicious or mischievous (NFPA 2008), addressing this matter can have a big impact on the overall number of false alarms. Having clear and fair discipline policies is the first step. During orientations, students should be informed of the penalties of malicious false alarms.

Paul Martin, who is chief of fire prevention for the New York State fire marshal's office and president of the [Center for Campus Fire Safety](#), believes in a zero tolerance approach for colleges. "If you find someone guilty, deal with them through a judicial affairs program on campus, but don't downplay it."

Some universities widely publicize the arrests of those who maliciously activate fire alarms. This is done to warn others who might be inclined to pull similar pranks.

[Take the 2012 Campus Safety Fire Survey!](#)

For K-12 schools, the type of discipline imposed depends on the age of the culprit. "Every time we have an alarm pulled, that person is turned over to the fire department, and the age and cognitive abilities of the child determines whether they are charged criminally or if we put them in one of the fire safety diversion programs," says South Western City Schools REMS Grant Project Director Gary Sigrist Jr.

**2. Apply peer pressure to discourage bad behavior:** Martin says schools that are most successful at eliminating malicious false alarms are those that have rewards programs for students who self police. After all, it's the students who suffer most as a result of these pranks - they are the ones who must evacuate class while taking an exam or are awakened in the middle of the night.

"Make sure [pranksters] realize that their peers won't tolerate it, let alone campus administration," he adds. "Peer pressure can be so helpful in modifying those behaviors."

The University of Massachusetts, Amherst (UMass), for example, gives a \$500 reward to students who turn in classmates who have maliciously set off an alarm.

**3. Conduct fire safety training programs:** UMass Campus Fire Prevention Officer Mike Swain says malicious false alarms were a big problem for his institution when he first arrived, but that the number of alarms have decreased recently. He credits some of this improvement with his school's fire education program.

"We get the word out that it not only is a hazard to people in the building but also to responding fire fighters," he adds. "We say, 'Look, this is your home. Someone in this building knows who is doing this.'"

Education also helps reduce nuisance alarms caused inadvertently by smoke from cooking, hairspray and the like. At universities with residence halls, many students are on their own for the first time in their lives and might not know how to operate a stove. It is probably for this reason that the majority of dorm fires start in the kitchen. It's also where most of the nuisance alarms originate.

According to Martin, at the beginning of every semester or quarter, RAs should instruct new students on how to operate the dorm's cooking equipment. "If there is an exhaust fan over the stove, obviously, step one would be to turn that on," he says. "So many people don't or don't know how," says Martin.

Instructions should include keeping the stoves and microwaves clean, and closing the kitchen door so smoke doesn't escape into other areas of the building, causing an alarm. Chemistry students should use fume hoods when in their labs. Additionally, candles and smoking should not be allowed inside the dorms. It should be noted, however, that these bans can sometimes create another problem: students covering their detectors so they won't get caught smoking.

With hospitals, nuisance fire alarms usually are caused by contractors doing renovations who have forgotten to cover detectors in the area where they are working. Smoke from employees who have burned their toast or left food in the microwaves for too long causes problems, too. According to Medical City Dallas Director of Security Len Sullivan, since the individuals in these cases are adults, on-the-spot reminders are normally more appropriate.

"Anytime we respond to those situations, we collect data to determine what caused the alarm," he says. "We then educate the folks in the area on what they can do to prevent such alarms from occurring in the future."

**4. Video surveillance, fire-pull covers can help:** K-12 districts like the South Western City Schools, higher education campuses like Baker College and hospitals like Medical City Dallas have all deployed security cameras to reduce their malicious false alarms.

"We've had very few pranks because we have so much CCTV," says Baker's Director of Campus Safety Tom Pokora. "They know that pulling an alarm will get them expelled from school. The cameras catch everything."

Even if the cameras don't identify the culprit, they can identify who was in the area at the time of the false alarm activation. Police can then question those individuals. "We have two officers who investigate incidents, and they pull up what video they can," says Pokora. "We can use it as evidence in court or give it to the police department if it's a criminal case."

Some manufacturers have developed covers for fire pulls that make a noise when they are lifted. The squeal draws attention to the person activating the alarm, thus discouraging pranks.

Swain warns, however, that deploying this technology involves a new educational component. "You have to make sure people realize that when they pull the cover, the squealing is not the fire alarm activating," he says. "They have to follow through and pull the fire alarm that's underneath the cover."

Sullivan also believes that in addition to technology, the visibility of his staff acts as a deterrent. "When we find an individual who is a suspect, we have well-trained staff who approach and ask, 'Is there somewhere you need to be?'"

**5. Place fire detectors in the correct locations:** Smoke detectors that are placed too close to kitchens, cooking appliances, locker rooms or bathrooms will most likely be accidentally activated by the smoke or steam emitted by these sources. Detectors might need to be relocated.

Martin warns, however, that this move needs to be analyzed beforehand. "It can't be arbitrary because the codes dictate where they have to be," he says. "It takes someone with knowledge of the code and equipment to place a detector properly."

**6. Use the right detector:** There have been remarkable advances in smoke detection technology in recent years that make these devices much less likely to go into nuisance alarm. Using a detector that senses heat and smoke might be one solution.

In the case of burned popcorn, only the smoke element of this device would activate and send a supervisory alarm. During a real fire, both the smoke and heat elements would be activated, thus signaling that everyone in the building should evacuate.

Fike Product Manager for Detection and Control Devices Kevin Montgomery is a fan of installing smoke/heat detectors with sounders in dorm rooms. "That way, [in the case of one student burning popcorn,] the sounder goes off in that individual's room," he says. "Of course, the RA can check on that particular room, but it's not going to tell everyone in the dorm to evacuate the building."

Some detectors have alarm verification, which can help to cull nuisance alarms from real ones. After the device detects smoke, it waits from 10 to 30 seconds and samples the air again to determine if smoke is still present. If it is still there, the alarm sounds.

**7. Maintain your fire system:** Nuisance alarms and shoddy system upkeep go hand-in-hand, so it's no surprise that Campus Safety Fire Survey respondents indicated that system maintenance was their No. 1 fire safety challenge. According to Wayne Moore, a principal of Hughes Associates Inc. and chairman of the NFPA 72 Emergency Communications Systems technical committee, detectors should be cleaned regularly: devices in classrooms should be cleaned every 18 to 24 months, and the ones in dorms should be cleaned once a year. Of course, if your campus has a newer system, it will let you know when a device needs to be cleaned. Many of them also have LCDs and point ID annunciation that indicate the location of a problem.

Moore says campus staff needs to conduct regular visual inspections of their fire/smoke detectors and control panels. "If they don't have [the control panels] reporting to one location, then maintenance should regularly look at the control panel [in each building] and see that it's not in trouble."

Unfortunately, with new construction, facility personnel are often not provided drawings, programming and training on how to operate the building's control panel. Maintenance contractors can address this problem, although Moore recommends a campus choose its contractor wisely. "The code says they must be trained by the manufacturer of the control panel in the building," he says. "If they aren't trained and if they aren't authorized dealers of the equipment being tested, they won't have access to replacement parts."

It is for this reason that he suggests campuses use only one or two brands of equipment. This helps to ensure all equipment is compatible (a problem for 25 percent of fire survey respondents), and it reduces maintenance expenses. "Plus, it gives you a lot more clout with the manufacturer if you have 50 of its panels instead of one," Moore adds. When a campus has multiple brands of fire, safety and security equipment installed, it is normally a good indication that these systems were installed without much foresight. Campuses that create a clear safety and security plan will have more effective safety strategies, which, in turn, may reduce the overall occurrence of false and nuisance alarms.

## IACP Passes Resolutions on Alarms

*Kathleen Schraufnagel - Electronic Security Associate Director & FARA Communications Committee Member*

In October the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) held their 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> the membership voted on the proposed resolutions for 2013. This year two of the adopted resolutions concern the alarm industry. The IACP Private Sector Liaison Committee submitted a resolution in support of alarm licensing on a state level. Additionally, the IACP Communications and Technology Committee resolution supports allowing the alarm industry to use FirstNet Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network.

**Support for Alarm Licensing** (PSLC.003.t13) encourages the adoption of strong consumer protection laws that deter dangerous and deceptive sales practices regarding alarm systems and supports licensing requirements and other regulations governing those in the electronic security industry that are commensurate with the responsibilities the individual performs. The document also recommends that individuals with the ability to install, move, repair, replace, service, disarm, or reconfigure an alarm system or any individual component connected to an alarm system, at an end-user's premises, should be properly licensed. The document further expresses support for the appropriate screening and background checks of those responsible for selling systems or services, and those responsible for monitoring security systems. The IACP strongly supports and endorses the alarm industry and its efforts to pass such legislation, recognizing that state licensing and regulation will help protect the security and general well-being of the public.

**IACP Support for Alarm Industry Use of the FirstNet Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network** (CTC.t0028.2013) strongly supports actions that seek to allow use by the Alarm Industry of the FirstNet Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network. The Next Generation 911 (NG911) refers to an initiative aimed at updating the 911 service infrastructure in the United States to improve public emergency communications services in a wireless mobile society. In addition to calling 911 from a phone, it intends to enable the public to transmit text, images, video and data to the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).

This is important to the alarm industry because all the new alarm systems technology is utilizing all aspects of digital and network communications. The ability to transmit data through the NG911 will not only speed up services, it will decrease the cost of communication not only for the industry but for PSAP's as well. Most importantly is the added benefit of standardized communication formats that ensure that data is clearly and effectively sent and received.

"SIAC is greatly encouraged by the resolutions the IACP Private Sector Liaison Committee (PSLC) approved earlier this year, as they provide further support for activities that will continue to improve alarm management practices in the years ahead. It took a lot of hard work from many committed individuals to reach agreement. SIAC appreciates the dedicated efforts of IACP, and key members who participated in the work on these resolutions," said Stan Martin, SIAC (Security Industry Alarm Coalition) Executive Director.

"Background checks and consistent licensing for security personnel across the United States are critical for better installations and lead to fewer nuisance alarms. The IACP's PSLC recognized the importance of these two areas, and singled them out for support. This recognition, along with the other resolutions approved, help strengthen the enforcement of best alarm management practices by integrating the voice of law enforcement with the security industry."

This reporter is excited by the resolutions and what it will mean to the alarm industry as a whole in ensuring that the right people are qualified to do the job as well as being part of such an effective communication tool.

## News on Door to Door Sales

*Courtesy of NESAs*

- **Warrant being held for Wolfville man charged under direct sellers act**

12.11.13 - The Hants Journal - A warrant is being held for a Kings County man charged under the Nova Scotia Direct Seller's Act who didn't make a scheduled court appearance. Thomas Peter Fennessey, 35, of Wolfville, is facing three charges of carrying on the business of direct selling medical alarm systems and monitoring ... [More Info](#)

- **Vision Security v. Ripoff Report**  
10.330.13 – Security System News - Orem, Utah - Vision Security is suing Ripoff Report, charging that the website is refusing to remove false and defamatory statements about Vision even after the author of the posting has since stated they aren't true. A Ripoff Report spokesperson says posts are never removed and it's not responsible for what users post on it. What's a security company to do? [More Info](#)
- **Door-to-door salespeople 'aggressive' and 'intimidating': poll**  
11.1.13 - CBC via Yahoo! Canada Finance - More than two thirds of Canadians say that door-to-door salespeople are aggressive, even when homeowners clearly state that they are not interested in what is being sold, a CBC poll has found. [More Info](#)

## Public Safety Updates

*Courtesy of NESAs*

- **AL: Fines proposed for false fire alarms**  
11.29.13 - Andalusia Star-News - A fourth visit from the Florala Fire Department because of false fire alarms could cost Florala businesses up to \$250. City council members tabled the proposed ... [More Info](#)
- **BC: Rash of false commercial alarms**  
12.4.13 - Business Examiner - Terrace RCMP get calls for half a dozen false alarms at various commercial buildings in 24 hours. [More Info](#)
- **CA: City hires firm to collect fees for false alarms**  
11.29.13 - Yorba Linda Star - Placentia – In an effort to keep better track of alarm permits and false alarms at homes and businesses in Placentia, the city has hired a private company to track incidents and pursue payments for violations. PMAM Corp. will take over tracking alarm... [More Info](#)
- **FL: Alarm system with direct link to police may be offered to residences**  
12.6.13 - Palm Beach Daily News - Town residents soon may be able to sign up for an alarm system that immediately notifies the Police Department of a possible home intrusion, reducing the response time by several crucial minutes. The Direct Connect alarm system has been available to town businesses since about 2002, when it was introduced following a rash of smash-and-grab burglaries on Worth Avenue. But it hasn't been offered ... [More Info](#)
- **FL: Prevent False Alarms This Holiday Season**  
12.14.13 - The Gainesville Times - Don't let your holiday season be ruined by false alarms! There are simple steps that you can take to avoid what could be costly mistakes, while at the same time creating a lovely holiday atmosphere in your home or business. Motion Detectors and Holiday Decorations \* Always ensure that hanging or moving decorations will not activate motion detectors, especially when heating systems come on. [More Info](#)
- **GA: DeKalb to bill for false alarms**  
11.29.13 - Atlanta Journal-Constitution - Starting Monday, DeKalb County will begin registering alarms at homes and businesses – and levying fines after one false alarm – in a bid to curb false alerts. [More Info](#)
- **IA: Cedar Rapids, Iowa City fire departments grapple with evolution of services**  
11.29.13 - The Gazette - When the alarm sounds at the Cedar Rapids or Iowa City fire departments, firefighters might be called out to a motor vehicle crash, a hazardous materials spill, a medical emergency, or – on rare occasions – an actual fire, though a false alarm is more likely. [More Info](#)
- **IL: Cary board opts to freeze tax levy**  
12.4.13 - Northwest Herald - Among the entities that have fire and security alarm monitoring through the village of Cary are the Fox River Grove Public Library, the Fox River Grove Municipal ... [More Info](#)
- **IN: Smoke alarm changes considered**  
12.4.13 - WISH-TV Indianapolis - The City County Council is looking to change the law regarding your smoke detectors. [More Info](#)
- **MA: Burglar alarm tips from Barnstable PD**  
12.8.13 - Wicked Local - The Barnstable Police Department is reminding owners of homes with burglar alarms to take a few steps to ensure proper functioning in the face of potentially ... [More Info](#)

- **MA: Dracut deputy police chief: Fine residents for too many false alarms**  
12.11.13 - Lowell Sun - Dracut -- More than 100 false burglar alarms per month that are unnecessarily sending cruisers rushing to homes and businesses with flashing lights and sirens has become a drain on police resources and a public-safety problem that may be solved by... [More Info](#)
- **MB: Fines for fire-code violations to skyrocket under changes**  
11.26.13 - Brandon Sun - ... and Emergency Response Act covers fire-safety inspections, regulations on the proper care of fire hoses, centrally monitored fire-alarm systems and fire-alarm ... [More Info](#)
- **MO: False burglary alarms keep Columbia police busy, but solutions elusive**  
12.15.13 - Columbia Missourian - The Columbia Police Department spends a lot of time responding to security alarms, which are false about 96.5 percent of the time. At a time when there are too few police on the street, there's a will to find a better way but no perfect alternative. [More Info](#)
- **NJ: Elmwood Park Council wants to amend alarm ordinance**  
12.10.13 - The Record - The Elmwood Park Council at its Dec. 5 meeting introduced an ordinance that would amend the fines charged to borough residents and businesses for calling the police on false burglar alarms. [More Info](#)
- **NY: Syracuse council reconsiders burglar alarm fee, this time \$30 a year**  
11.27.13 - The Post-Standard - Elderly and disabled residents would be exempt. [More Info](#)
- **NY: You may have to pay more for your alarm system soon**  
12.3.13 - YNN Syracuse - If you have a burglar alarm system, you could soon see your bill increase. That's because the City of Syracuse is considering enforcing legislation that would charge home and business owners with alarm systems \$30 every year. As our Katie Gibas reports, while the measure hasn't passed yet, the discussion isn't over. [More Info](#)
- **OH: Nearly all of the alarm calls now are false-alarms**  
12.9.13 - 89.7 WKSU - Lt. Rick Edwards says nearly 99 percent of alarms officers respond to are false. ... Akron will soon require proof of an emergency before police respond to security alarms. [More Info](#)
- **OH: Ohio PD to Stop Responding to Most Security Alarms**  
12.4.13 - Officer.com - The shift in department policy is in response to decades of false alarms sounding from businesses and residences that city leaders say needlessly tie up police ... [More Info](#)
- **OH: Some favor, some abandon Akron's alarm response plan**  
12.5.13 - SecurityInfoWatch - The city of Akron is about to join a small group of police departments across the country that have stopped responding to security alarms in homes and ... [More Info](#)
- **ON: Ontario passes bill requiring carbon monoxide detectors in all homes**  
11.28.13 - The Globe and Mail - Progressive Conservative MPP Ernie Hardeman, who sponsored the legislation, said 250 Ontarians have been killed by the odourless, colourless gas in the last decade. [More Info](#)
- **ON: Unpaid false alarm fines can end up on tax bills**  
12.13.13 - Simcoe.com - The Barrie Police Services Board has agreed to bill property owners on their tax bills for repeated false alarms. Insp. Mark Sheffer recently told the board the city ... [More Info](#)
- **OR: State Fire Marshal Advises Those Using New Communication Technologies to Test Their Alarm Monitoring Systems**  
11.14.13 - PRWeb - Most alarm systems communicate with alarm monitoring centers through a telephone line using a complex touch-tone signal sent to the alarm monitoring station. With new digital communication technology such as digital subscriber lines (DSL), voice over internet protocol (VoIP), and wireless, the signals may or may not be received correctly by an alarm monitoring station. [More Info](#)
- **TX: Victoria proposing increase in penalties for false alarms**  
12.15.13 - The Victoria Advocate - The penalties for false burglar and fire alarms in Victoria could soon double in cost. [More Info](#)
- **VA: Fines to be imposed for some false alarm calls in Va. Beach**  
12.12.13 - 13 News, WVEC Hampton Roads - Virginia Beach-Fines will be imposed soon for people who sound alarms for non-emergencies in Va. Beach. Police say officers respond to about 1,800 calls a year (for example: manually-triggered panic, duress, hold-up alarms) that end up being false calls. This is phase 2 of the False Alarm Reduction Program, effective January 1, 2014. Police say it's designed to cut down on the number of false ... [More Info](#)

- **WA: Carbon monoxide poisoning a risk during cold streak**  
12.9.13 - Yakima Herald-Republic - Ellensburg, Wash. - Kittitas County officials are warning residents to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning as they heat their homes during the current cold streak. The county's public health agency issued the reminder this morning. The odorless, invisible gas... [More Info](#)
- **WA: False alarms keep Kentville firefighters hopping**  
11.29.13 - Kings County Register/Advertiser - One fire alarm was cancelled before trucks rolled out of the Main Street station, but a call about a chimney fire in North Alton had crews busy. Two trucks and ... [More Info](#)

## Industry News

*Courtesy of NESAs*

- **WSAZ Investigates: Putting A Family to the Smoke Alarm Test**  
11.26.13 - WSAZ NewsChannel 3 West Virginia - Even with a perfect plan in place to help children escape during a fire, there is one part that must be left to chance. [More Info](#)
- **Staples Connect Home Automation Hits Stores Today**  
11.28.13- CEPro - Staples rolls out Connect home automation and security system today in 32 small-market stores; Doorbot and Isee not yet available, but inexpensive Lutron ClearConnect dimmers and shades available now. [More Info](#)
- **ADT culls 'weaker players' from dealer program**  
11.26.13 – Security Systems News - New York - ADT is turning its dealer program around, culling more than 100 lower-performing dealers, according to an industry analyst. Learn the details. [More Info](#)
- **Video verification standards by 2014**  
11.26.13 – Security Systems News - Henderson, Nev. - A group of law enforcement and alarm industry representatives want to get video verification standards ready by 2014. After their first gathering, members tell Security Systems News how they plan to meet this goal. [More Info](#)
- **Traditional phone lines may go away**  
11.30.13 - The Detroit News - Seifert added Lifeline systems, burglar alarms and medical devices such as heart pacemakers operate on traditional land lines and may not be compatible with ...[More Info](#)
- **Consumer Tech Talk: Security systems protect, provide peace of mind**  
12.1.13 - Appeal-Democrat - It says that there are about 5,000 security companies in the United States and 18 million home alarm systems. Other industries such as telecommunications ... [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.

## 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](mailto:bradshipp@4yoursolution.com)

## Contact Us

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

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