



InfoLink

Information for Public Safety False Alarm Reduction Professionals

FARA InfoLink June, 2012

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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:

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Your Conference Committee is busy planning for 2013

By: David Wilson

The Albuquerque Training Symposium was FANTASTIC! The Conference Committee would like to thank all that attended, everyone that contributed behind the scenes that wasn't able to attend (there were many), and the knowledgeable instructors for making this a great learning experience.

Let's do it again in sunny Orlando!

Join us at the Southeast Electronic Security Conference

April 22-26, 2013



Cosponsored by

False Alarm Reduction Association (FARA)
Alarm Association of Florida (AAF)
National Electronic Security Alliance (NESA)

Located at

The Doubletree Orlando Resort At Universal
5780 Major Boulevard
Orlando, FL 32819
407-351-1000

The planning for Orlando will take months. The Conference Committee needs suggestions from our members to make Orlando a great as Albuquerque.

Send us your thoughts on the following:

- **What kind of classes would you like to have presented (or not presented)?**
- **Is there a particular instructor you would like to see in Orlando?**
- **Suggestions for group activities (field trip, scavenger hunt, etc.)**
- **Networking Ideas**
- **Fundraising ideas**

This is your training symposium.....tell us what you want!

Membership Committee Report

By: *Debbie Hansen*

When you are sending your child out into the snow, you bundle them up warmly and guide them out the door. When the weather is hot, you slather them with sun screen, put on a sun hat, and send them out to play.

What do you do when it is time to hand over your False Alarm Reduction Program to a stranger? Well, for me, the most comforting thought was that I can be certain that my replacement's first order of business will be to get signed up with FARA. I am confident that FARA affiliation will influence them to stay the course and that they will understand the need to reach across the industry and fully cooperate in this combined effort to reduce false alarms in our jurisdiction.

What about you? Have there been changes in your alarm unit? Have you remembered to get any new personnel connected to FARA? If not yet, please be certain to do so. The Membership Committee would like to be able to welcome them to FARA. Please contact Brad Shipp at 301.519.9237 to get them tied in.

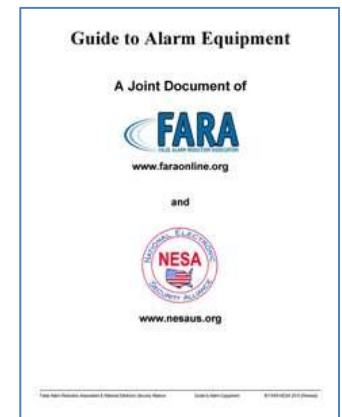
Thank you, FARA colleagues. You took me from a novice, who did not really know what a false alarm was, to a Certified Alarm Manager. There truly is strength in numbers so continue to get FARA out there to people in your region and don't forget those people within your organization who would also benefit from FARA.

Featured Resource – Guide to Alarm Equipment

By *Brad Shipp, FARA*

The purpose of this reference guide is to provide public safety and the alarm industry with recommendations regarding alarm system equipment and installation practices that have proven to be highly effective in reducing false alarms and which will make a significant impact on the false alarm problem when fully implemented. The reference guide contains major alarm system components, describes their function, provides recommended applications and lists either the false alarm potential or the false alarm prevention aspects of each component.

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



FARA's Believe it or Not

By: *Lisa Espinosa, Newsletter Editor*

Drug dealer mistakenly sends officer text messages

Santa Maria, Calif. (AP) — Police say a drug dealer mistakenly sent messages to a California central coast police officer in an attempt to sell methamphetamines.

The Santa Maria officer notified Santa Barbara County sheriff's detectives about the errant text messages early Tuesday. The officer and detectives then set up a meeting with the alleged drug dealer.

Sheriff's spokesman Drew Sugars says they arrested 39-year-old Reymundo Carlos Escobedo and seized about 2 grams of methamphetamine.

A news release says 37-year-old John Martin Silvera, who is Escobedo's suspected methamphetamine supplier, also arrived and was arrested with about 7 grams of methamphetamine.

Escobedo and Silvera remain held on drug charges, including criminal conspiracy. Bail is set at \$30,000 each.

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 lespinosa@beavertonoregon.gov and we'll put them in the next InfoLink for all to share!

Joke of the Month

The Shredder!

A young engineer was leaving the office at 5:45 pm when he found the CEO standing in front of the shredder with a piece of paper in his hand.

"Listen," said the CEO, "this is a very sensitive and important document and my secretary is not here. Can you make this thing work?"

"Certainly," said the young engineer. He turned on the machine, inserted the paper and pressed the start button.

"Excellent, excellent!" said the CEO as his paper disappeared inside the machine, "I just need one copy."

Lesson: Never, never, ever assume that your boss knows what he's doing.

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

Florissant police officer out of surgery after shooting

5.29.12 - STLtoday.com - Florissant, IL - One of the bullets that struck Officer Michael Vernon when he was shot by a burglary suspect Monday morning lodged in his spine, with paralysis feared, according to Florissant Police Chief William Karabas. "With these type of injuries, it's possible," Karabas said.

Brian Lamont Cannon Jr., 20, was charged Tuesday with assault on a law enforcement officer, armed criminal action and burglary in connection with the shooting at about 3 a.m. Monday. Cannon burglarized a home at about a half-hour before the shooting and activated a burglar alarm. He ran and hid from police. He jumped up from a trash bin and fired several shots at Vernon who was searching for him, court documents allege.

Vernon was in critical but stable condition in a local hospital's intensive care unit after being shot three times. He suffered a spinal cord injury, and one of the bullets penetrated his lungs, police say.

Vernon, 33, is a seven-year member of the Florissant Police Department and an Iraq War veteran.

"We are hoping and praying for him," said Karabas, who said he spent 12 hours at the hospital with Vernon's wife. "It's unfortunate, but there is so much violence in the community and attacks against police officers. It's senseless."

Karabas said Vernon has been in and out of consciousness. "Officer Vernon is in high spirits, and he is determined to fight through his injuries and make a recovery," according to a press release issued just before noon Tuesday by the Florissant Police Department. "Officer Vernon appreciates the community's outpouring of support."

Vernon was shot as he searched for a burglar behind a vacant bank in a strip mall on North Lindbergh Boulevard. Authorities said Vernon found a pair of shorts that seemed out of place and was investigating when Cannon popped up from his hiding place and fired several shots, striking Vernon three times from about five feet away.

Police spokesman Andy Haarmann said Vernon gave police a good description of the man who shot him. Cannon was found nearby, in the backyard of a home, with the help of a police dog. Cannon lives in the 5200 block of Wren Avenue in St. Louis. Bail was set at \$500,000, cash only.

Police say Cannon burglarized a home in the 1800 block of Banstead Drive and set off the burglary alarm at 2:37 a.m. Monday. Officers arrived to find people fleeing out the back door and jumping over fences to get away, and called for more help. Vernon was in his patrol car nearby and came to assist. He was shot while checking near businesses in the 2800 block of North Lindbergh Boulevard.

After he was shot, Vernon was taken to DePaul Hospital in Bridgeton. A hospital spokeswoman was unavailable Tuesday morning to provide an update on the officer's condition.

Haarmann on Monday said that Vernon was "in and out of consciousness," adding "He's not nearly out of the woods."

Vernon, who hails from Springfield, has spent seven years with the Florissant police, three as a corrections officer and four as a patrolman. He's an Army veteran who served two tours in Iraq, and is married with no children.

Haarmann said that Vernon's family was at his bedside. The Missouri Highway Patrol flew Vernon's mother to the hospital to be with her son, and drove his in-laws here. Other relatives who live out of state are heading here also, he said.

Vernon is married, but has no children, Karabas said.

According to Missouri court records, Cannon pleaded guilty in 2010 to burglaries and theft in Ladue and Clayton. In both cases, a St. Louis County judge sentenced Cannon to seven years in prison, but he got a suspended execution of sentence and was given five years' probation and 120-day "shock time" in jail.

Kim Bell of the Post-Dispatch contributed to this report

Suspect sought in shooting of Oak Hill officer

6.13.12 - Beckley Register-Herald - Oak Hill, WV - Police are continuing their search for a suspect in the early Wednesday morning shooting of an Oak Hill police officer.

According to information released by the Fayette County Sheriff's Office and the Oak Hill Police Department, the officer, Sgt. J. L. Kirk, was shot about 1 a.m. after responding to an alarm in the area of Maple Court Apartments near the top of Whipple Hill in Oak Hill.

After checking the area, Kirk saw an individual walking toward Whipple and attempted to make contact with him. As Kirk began to get out of his vehicle, the suspect turned toward the officer and discharged one round. The bullet struck Kirk in the lower left portion of his abdomen, but Kirk was wearing a bullet proof vest, which prevented serious injury. Kirk was transported to Plateau Medical Center and has since been released and joined the task force in search of the suspect, said police.

Kirk drew his weapon and returned fire at the scene, but the suspect fled on foot.

The suspect has been described as a black male with a dark complexion. He is medium height and medium to stocky build. His hair is loosely braided in corn rows or dreadlocks. He was last seen heading in the direction of Whipple and was wearing a short-sleeved green shirt and blue jeans. He is believed to be right-handed. The suspect is considered to be armed with a small-caliber handgun or a .25 caliber semi-automatic pistol and is also considered dangerous.

Anyone with information concerning this incident should call Fayette County 911 (304-574-3590), Crime Stoppers (304-255-7867), the Fayette County Sheriff's Department (304-574-4216), the Oak Hill Police (304-465-0597) or the State Police (304-469-2915).

Area agencies responded Wednesday morning to assist in the search for the suspect including officers from the Fayette and Nicholas County Sheriff's Offices, the Fayetteville Police Department and West Virginia State Police.

"This is the second time in just over two years that a member of the Oak Hill Police Department has been shot in the line of duty and has been saved by his bulletproof vest," said Oak Hill Chief Mike Whisman.

Sgt. Kirk, 32, is in his 12th year with the Oak Hill Police.

The composite sketch of the victim is only designed to show the suspect's approximate complexion and hair style. The facial features shown are not representative of the suspect, said the police.

Arkansas Becomes First to Deploy Smart911 Statewide to Enhance Public Safety

6.5.12 - 9-1-1-Magazine - On Monday, June 4th, 2012, Arkansas State Senator Gilbert Baker (R) announced that Arkansas has become the first in the nation to launch Smart911 statewide, ushering in a new era of public safety for all of its citizens. In an initiative marked by bipartisan leadership, and the overwhelming support of public safety officials and public service groups, the Smart911 deployment will give 9-1-1 telecommunicators, police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) more detailed information, enabling them to respond to an emergency in the right location, with the right personnel and right equipment to improve the incident outcome.

Smart911 is a service provided by Rave Mobile Safety, the trusted software partner for campus and public safety. Smart911 is a public/private partnership which gives citizens the ability to create a free, private and secure Safety Profile that integrates with the 9-1-1 system. Endorsed nationwide by leading public safety and health officials, as well as local emergency responders and advocacy groups, the rapidly-growing Smart911 service is now helping emergency responders across dozens of states protecting millions of citizens.

"With Smart911, we are providing our 9-1-1 centers and emergency responders with the best possible tool to protect all of our citizens. Regardless of political affiliation, there is no greater priority than the well-being of those we serve," said Senator Gilbert Baker of Arkansas. "Through new technology and at no cost to taxpayers, Arkansas is leading the way in public safety by helping front-line responders in each and every city and town to resolve emergencies more effectively and save lives."

Smart911 allows citizens to create a Safety Profile online at www.smart911.com that is automatically displayed to 9-1-1 during emergency calls. This can include home addresses associated with mobile phone numbers, medical conditions and disabilities, photos of family members, floor-plans and other rescue-related data.

This information enables emergency responders to have a comprehensive understanding of the scene before they arrive. For example, EMS will know about medical conditions, allergies and disabilities, facilitating precise life-saving treatment. Fire crews will know not only how many residents are at a home, but locations of bedrooms, residents with special needs and even if there are pets on-premise. Police will have instant access to a child's personal information and a photograph if a child goes missing.

Citizens are encouraged to create their Safety Profile with Smart911 today to have their information immediately available to 9-1-1. Smart911 data is private and secure, is only used for emergency responses, and only made available to the 9-1-1 system in the event of an emergency call.

FBI: Violent crime down for 5th straight year

6.15.12 - The Associated Press via Fox News - The number of crimes reported to police dropped again last year compared with 2010, but a closer look at the numbers suggests the long annual line of declines in crime levels may have hit bottom.

Last year marked the fifth straight year of year-to-year improvement for the number of violent crimes reported to authorities. It was the ninth consecutive year of declines for property crimes, according to preliminary FBI data for 2011 released Monday. However, the early 2011 figures show that the decline in both violent crime and property crime levels slowed from July through December of last year. Violent crime fell 6.4 percent in the first six months of last year. But for the entire year, the decline was much less, just 4 percent. The number of reported property crimes fell 3.7 percent in the first half of last year. For all of 2011, it went down 0.8 percent.

"The picture for January to June looked terrific," said Northeastern University criminology professor James Alan Fox. "For the entire year, it's very different. Maybe we're reaching the end of the trough in declining crime levels. It's what happened in the second part of the year that concerns me." The FBI says murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery and aggravated assault all went down in 2011.

Violent crime decreased in all four regions: 4.9 percent in the Midwest; 4.7 percent in the West; 4.5 percent in the South and 0.8 percent in the Northeast. There was, however, an increase in murder in the Midwest — 0.6 percent — and an 18.3 percent jump in murder in cities with populations of less than 10,000.

In the property crime category, motor vehicle theft dropped 3.3 percent, and larceny-theft decreased 0.9 percent. However, burglary offenses increased 0.3 percent, rising 3.2 percent in the Northeast, 1.3 percent in the Midwest and 0.7 percent in the West.

The preliminary data is based on information the FBI gathered from 14,009 law enforcement agencies around the United States.

News on Door to Door Sales

Courtesy of NESAs

- **ESA Issues Consumer Tips for Door-to-Door Alarm Sales**
6.14.12 - CEPro - The Electronic Security Association (ESA) issues some tips for consumers to follow when approached by door-to-door alarm system salesmen. [More Info](#)
- **HI: Alarm companies warning of door-to-door sales agents**
6.5.12 - KHON2 - Honolulu, HI - These days, people are going door to door trying to sell all sorts of things, and their pitch can be convincing But, Marianne Bicoy is sounding the alarm about ... [More Info](#)
- **NC: CPI warns customers after it says other companies offer to upgrade ...**
6.14.12 - WSOC - Charlotte, NC - "Consumers feel they were misled by -- 'Well, I thought it was my existing alarm company that was just upgrading my system, and boom -- I sign a contract and ... [More Info](#)
- **NH: Pinnacle Security barred from N.H. city**
6.14.12 - Security Info Watch - Manchester, NH - Company denied license to operate in Manchester due to its conduct in other states... [More Info](#)
- **NH: Pinnacle Security barred from NH city**
6.6.12 - SecurityInfoWatch - Manchester, NH - A burglar alarm company that recently started selling in New Hampshire has been denied a license to operate in Manchester because of its ... [More Info](#)
- **RI: Callers using robbery story to hook you**
6.4.12 - Providence Eyewitness News - Providence, RI - The caller -- human or recorded -- may strongly suggest you should get an alarm system. And guess who's got an alarm system to sell you? The caller. They're ... [More Info](#)
- **UT: Platinum sued again, but two other cases dismissed**
6.14.12 - American Fork, UT - Platinum Protection, a summer-model company that laid off most of its employees in February, is facing another lawsuit. Who is taking the financially ailing company to court this time, and which industry players have decided to pull back on the legal front? [More Info](#)

Public Safety Updates

Courtesy of NESAs

- **AZ: Tucson's enforcement of false alarm fees starts Friday**
5.31.12 - TucsonSentinel.com - Tucson, AZ - The Tucson Police Department will begin charging fees Friday under a false alarm ordinance that went into effect April 1. [More Info](#)
- **DE: Delaware initiative to reduce false alarms begins**
6.12.12 - Newsworks.org - Dover, DE - State Police have begun a program to reduce the frequency of false alarms in Delaware Businesses and residents as of May 17th are required to register their ... [More Info](#)
- **DE: Delaware to crack down on false alarms**
6.11.12 - SecurityInfoWatch - Dover, DE - State police to fine home, business owners that have more than three false alarms... [More Info](#)
- **DE: State police to charge for false alarms**
6.7.12 - Delmarva Daily Times - Dover, DE - Beginning Sunday, state police will begin charging businesses and homeowners an escalating fee after they have responded to ... [More Info](#)
- **GA: GELSSA to host meeting on new Fayetteville, Ga. alarm ordinance**
6.4.12- Security Info Watch - Fayetteville, GA - City launches False Alarm Reduction Program, requires registration of alarm systems [More Info](#)
- **MN: Proposal supported by Willmar, Minn., City Council committee would ...**
6.1.12 - West Central Tribune - Willmar - A proposal supported by the Willmar City Council's Public Works/Safety Committee would reinstate payment of fees for repeat false fire alarm ... [More Info](#)

- **NJ: Police say Falls Township driver who hit patrol car fell asleep**
5.31.12 - The Times of Trenton - NJ.com - Falls Township, NJ - In a news release, police said Killeen was responding to an alarm call at non-emergency speed when the car driven by township resident Brian Etier crossed ... [More Info](#)
- **OR: Bend City Council Serious About False Alarms**
6.7.12 - KBND - Bend, OR - The Bend City Council passed the first reading of a new city ordinance that will control false security alarms within the city. On April 18th, Bend Police Chief Jeff Sale reported to the council that they spend about \$111,000 each year monitoring and responding to false security alarms.... [More Info](#)
- **PA: Bethlehem mayor, deputy fire chief say response times have ...**
5.30.12 - The Express Times - LehighValleyLive.com - Bethlehem, PA - Changes to the city's second alarm policy, which are expected to go into effect at ... The deputy chief estimated that there are roughly 20 to 25 second-alarm fire ... [More Info](#)
- **TX: False alarm calls tie up city resources**
6.15.12 - KFDD - Amarillo- Police are dispatched to dozens of burglar alarm calls daily. After analyzing city records provided by the Amarillo Police Department, we discovered ... [More Info](#)
- **TX: Police association sets benefit for injured officer**
6.1.12 - Longview News-Journal - She was participating in a citizen ride along with a civilian passenger, responding to a business alarm call when the wreck happened. [More Info](#)
- **WI: Police respond to false alarms**
5.31.12 - Wisconsin Rapids Tribune - Wisconsin Rapids, WI - False alarms are nothing new in Wisconsin Rapids - the police department deals with an average of almost two per week, according to police records. [More Info](#)

Industry News

Courtesy of NESAs

- **Commercial CO Detection Requirements on the Rise**
5.18.12 - SDM - To date carbon monoxide (CO) detection has been a requirement primarily for ... [More Info](#)
- **One in Four US Homes Needs Updated Safety Equipment; Families ...**
6.4.12 - MarketWatch - Aging smoke alarms may not operate efficiently and often cause nuisance alarms. A Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center study found that by the ...[More Info](#)
- **Fire Side Chat: More of What You Need to Know About CO**
6.13.12 - Security Sales & Integration - The heightened attention given to CO detection in recent years is reflected in updates to the International Residential Code and NFPA 720. Learn what these changes are, their... [read more](#)

Please Share Your Newsletters and Tips with Us

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

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

FARA Mission Statement

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

Contact Us

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10024 Vanderbilt Circle, Unit 4
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<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

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