



InfoLink

Information for Public Safety False Alarm Reduction Professionals

FARA InfoLink July 2017 Edition

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Moni
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FARA Training Symposium



Hotel and Dates are set

*DoubleTree Suites Seattle Airport Southcenter
Seattle, WA*

*April 30, 2018 - Cry Wolf Conference
May 1 to 3, 2018- FARA Symposium*



Stay tuned for details on the program and how to register

Jon Sargent, ESA's Weinstock Person of the Year Honored at ESX

ESA

Jon Sargent was officially honored as the 2016 Morris F. Weinstock Person of the Year at the Electronic Security Expo (ESX) in Nashville.

Sargent was recognized during the Opening Celebration at the Country Music Hall of Fame.

The Morris F. Weinstock Person of the Year Award is one of the most esteemed honors in the electronic security and life safety industry. The award commemorates the lifetime volunteer work of the ESA co-founder and past president.

[Click here to view a video](#)

EPS Takes Home PDQ Award Hardware for Beating Back False Alarms

6.16.17 – SSI - Nashville

Grand Rapids, Mich.-based Engineered Protection Systems was honored at the 2017 Electronic Security Expo.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Engineered Protection Systems (EPS) took home the 12th annual [Police Dispatch Quality \(PDQ\) Award](#) for its ongoing efforts to reduce false alarm dispatches during a special ceremony today at the Electronic Security Expo (ESX).

The [Security Industry Alarm Coalition \(SIAC\)](#), [False Alarm Reduction Association](#) (FARA) and Security Sales & Integration established the PDQ award program in 2005.



Also endorsed by the Installation Quality (IQ) program, the PDQ award program spotlights alarm installing and monitoring businesses for creating best practices that help prevent false alarm dispatches.

EPS received the award during the Public Safety Luncheon. The company was the PDQ Award runner-up for two consecutive years.

“Engineered Protection Systems has consistently shown itself to be extraordinarily conscientious, exacting and effective where it comes to alarm management and dispatches,” says Stan Martin, SIAC Executive Director. “These efforts have garnered EPS Security recognition as a PDQ runner-up on multiple occasions, which is quite an achievement in itself.”

EPS has served the Michigan community since 1955. The company has locations in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Traverse City and Petoskey. An in-depth look at the company’s award-winning practices will be featured in the October issue of SSI. “Winning this award was the result of focus towards dealing with alarm issues for the benefit of our valued customers and the community as a whole,” says EPS Security President Kevin Carlson. “Reducing unnecessary dispatches is vital to the health of our industry and our ability to serve and protect the community.”

EPS strategies for reducing false alarms include two call confirmations, customer education at installation, detailed user guides and specific procedures for problem alarm sites.

“When a pervasive false alarm problem is discovered, EPS Security has a number of procedures to make a correction,” Carlson explains. “These include a member of the EPS Security Monitoring Center team calling customers, downloaders checking on the programs, service techs coordinating onsite visits to check equipment, or providing a full re-education of the system to the customer along with a possible extension of delay times.”

Other previous winners include, [Amherst Alarm](#), [Broadview Security](#), [Atronic Alarms](#), [Alarm Detection Systems Inc.](#), [Brink’s Home Security](#), [Custom Alarm](#), [HS Technology](#), [Vector Security](#)(two-time winner), [Monitronics](#) and Habitec Security.

[More Info](#)

Life Safety Relies On Code Adoption

5.10.17 – NEMA- This piece was originally published in the May 2017 issue of electroindustry. Richard Roberts, Industry Affairs Manager, Honeywell Security and Fire

The public is safer as a result of the 2015 editions of the International Fire Code (IFC), International Building Code (IBC), and International Building Code (IRC). Collectively known as the I-Codes, they protect the public by incorporating the latest advancements in technology and techniques. They are updated every three years to align with new technologies and techniques.

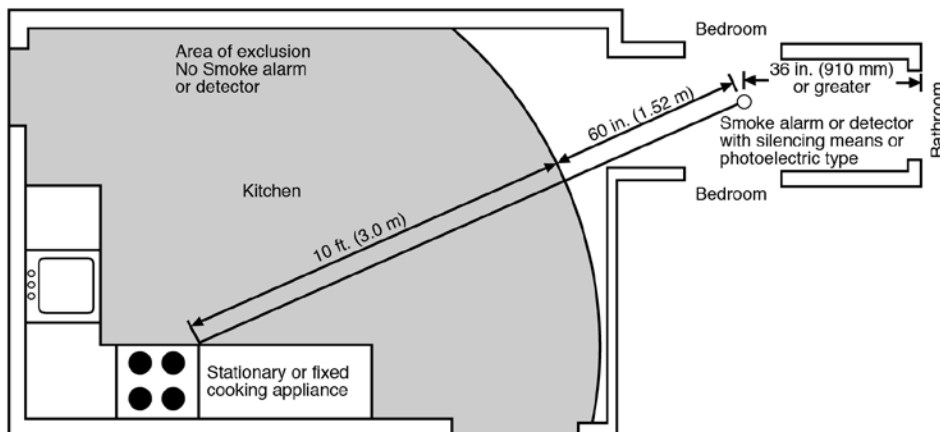
One significant change helps first responders quickly identify the exact location of an activated initiating device during an emergency and reduce unwanted alarm activations by pinpointing the problematic device. The change replaces the traditional fire alarm system zone requirement with a point identification requirement.

Previously, the IFC and IBC required each floor of a building to constitute one fire alarm zone, and additional fire alarm zones were required if the floor area exceeded 22,500 square feet. The 2015 code now requires all new fire alarm systems to identify the specific type of initiating device, its address, location, and floor level, as well as indicating whether the initiating device is in alarm, trouble, or supervisory condition.

Smaller fire alarm systems are exempted from the point identification requirement, provided that the building is less than 22,500 square feet, the system has only manual pull stations, the system has only water flow switches, special initiating devices do not support individual device identification, or fire alarm systems or devices are replacing existing equipment. This new requirement should result in more addressable fire alarm systems being installed.

Minimizing Unwanted Alarms

Several changes were made in an effort to reduce unwanted smoke detection activations from normal cooking activities and steam from bathrooms. There are new requirements for the specific placement of smoke alarms or smoke detectors in close proximity to fixed cooking appliances and in close proximity to bathrooms containing a bathtub or shower.

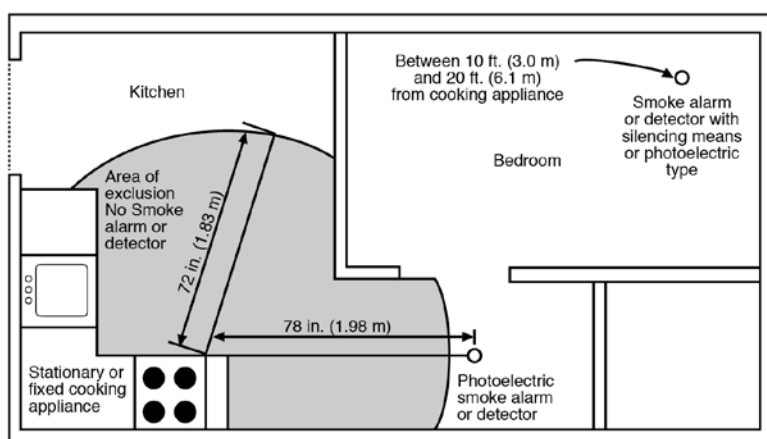


New requirements for the placement of smoke alarms or smoke detectors specify distances to cooking appliances and bathrooms containing a bathtub or shower. Illustrations courtesy of Honeywell Security and Fire

Smoke alarms or detectors are prohibited from being installed less than 10 feet from a fixed cooking appliance. This 10 foot area of exclusion is shaded in gray in the figure above. For smoke detection that is installed between 10 feet and 20 feet from a fixed cooking appliance, the IFC, IBC, and IRC require the device to be equipped with an alarm-silencing means or use photoelectric technology.

The smoke alarm or detector is represented by the red dot in the figure below. Even though the requirement does not specifically call out ionization technology, ionization alarms or detectors are only permitted to be installed between 10 and 20 feet of a cooking appliance if they have an alarm silencing means, more commonly referred to as a hush button. Photoelectric detectors are not required to have a hush button. The new requirement also prohibits smoke alarms and detectors from being installed less than three feet from the door to a bathroom with a shower or bath tub.

There is an exception to the 10-foot area of exclusion. In many small living spaces, it may not be possible to place a smoke alarm or detector greater than 10 feet from a fixed cooking appliance. For example, the code requires smoke detection to be installed outside each bedroom. However, if the door to the bedroom is less than 10 feet from a fixed cooking appliance, it is not possible to maintain the 10-foot area of exclusion. For these applications, the code permits a photoelectric alarm to be installed up to six feet from a fixed cooking appliance.



Photoelectric devices may be installed up to six feet from a fixed cooking appliance.

Unwanted alarms are the leading cause of occupants disabling their smoke alarms, and roughly 20 percent of all smoke alarms installed in United States homes have been disabled. That percentage may be greater in high-risk areas, such as inner cities and rural communities. Cooking activities such as pan frying, baking, and sautéing are the leading cause of nuisance alarms. While both ionization and photoelectric devices are subject to nuisance alarms from normal cooking activities, ionization technology is more likely to generate nuisance alarms when installed too close to a cooking appliance. That's why proper installation is critical.

Carbon Monoxide Protection

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,^[1] each year more than 400 persons die and more than 20,000 are injured every year in the U.S. from accidental carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

There have been at least 19 incidents of high levels of CO at schools since 2007,^[2] and perhaps as many as 60, according to an informal NEMA survey based on publicly available media reports. Only California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, and New York have laws requiring CO detection in K-12 schools.

One of the most effective ways to reduce the incidence of CO poisoning is to ensure that detection devices are installed in places where people live, work, sleep, and study.

To protect students and faculty from serious injury or possibly death from unintentional non-fire-related CO exposure, the I-Codes require all new K-12 schools to install CO detection. This new requirement is consistent with the CO requirements that were added to the 2012 edition of the IFC/IBC for new hotels, apartment buildings, dormitories, nursing homes, and hospitals.

Protecting the Public

Another change protects people in restaurants, bars, banquet halls, night clubs, and cafeterias from asphyxiation from carbon dioxide (CO₂) dispensing equipment. A CO₂ leak will displace oxygen and has caused death from asphyxiation. Chapter 5307 of the IFC requires either a mechanical ventilation system or an emergency alarm system to be installed in rooms containing beverage dispensing equipment with more than 100 pounds of CO₂.

It is essential that jurisdictions adopt the 2015 model fire and building codes, as the consequential changes will enhance public life safety.

^[1] [Unintentional Non-Fire-Related Carbon Monoxide Exposures—United States](#), 2001–2003. CDC. January 21, 2005 / 54(02);36-39

^[2] ["Schools lack alarms to warn of deadly carbon monoxide,"](#) USA TODAY, Dec. 5, 2012

[More Info](#)

Violence Rate Up 4.2% in Big U.S. Cities

6.7.17 - SIA

Chicago accounted for more than 55 percent of the murder increase last year, according to a new analysis of crime data by the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law. The overall national crime rate remained stable, a report said. On average, numbers show that Americans remain safer today than they have been at almost any time in the past quarter-century.

From the report [Crime in 2016: A Preliminary Analysis](#):

- The overall national crime rate remained essentially stable last year, rising by 0.9 percent, in the 30 major cities studied here.
- **Violent crime** rates rose slightly, by 4.2 percent. The increase was driven by Chicago (16.5 percent) and Baltimore (18.6 percent). Violent crime rate also peaked in 1991 at 716 violent crimes per 100,000, and now stands at 366. However, the violent crime rate, like rates of murder and overall crime, has risen and fallen during this time. For example, violent crime registered small increases in 2005 and 2006, and then resumed its downward trend. In 2015, violent crime increased by 2.9 percent nationally and by 2.0 percent in the nation's 30 largest cities. Preliminary data for 2016 also show a greater increase in the national violent crime rate, up 6.3 percent, and a smaller jump in the 30 largest cities, 2.4 percent. Crime is often driven by local factors, so rates in cities may differ from national averages.
- **Murder:** From 1991 to 2016, the murder rate fell by roughly half, from 9.8 killings per 100,000 to 5.3. The murder rate rose last year by an estimated 7.8 percent. With violence at historic lows, modest increases in the murder rate may appear large in percentage terms, the report said. Similarly, murder rates in the 30 largest cities increased by 13.2 percent in 2015 and an estimated 14 percent in 2016. These increases were highly concentrated. More than half of the 2015 urban increase (51.8 percent) was caused by just three cities, Baltimore, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. And Chicago alone was responsible for 43.7 percent of the rise in urban murders in 2016.

"Concerns about a national crime wave are premature, but we are seeing flash floods in some individual cities," said Ames Grawert, a counsel in the Brennan Center's Justice Program. "What's happening in Chicago is startling, and it's imperative we figure out how and why murder has gone up so drastically."

Over Memorial Day weekend, 49 people were shot in Chicago, which actually was an improvement, said USA Today, as 69 were shot over the same holiday weekend in 2016. Chicago has recorded 235 murders so far this year, compared to 244 for the same time period in 2016. Shooting incidents have dropped more significantly to 1,047 compared to 1,222 last year, according to police department data.

However, according to a Fox Chicago report, the FBI is now joining the Chicago Police Department on the front lines. Agents will be going to the most violent neighborhoods in an effort to stop all the shootings. "We are still doing large criminal enterprises, don't get me wrong, but we have recognized that this is really a problem area that has existed here for awhile now and until we can stem that tide, we're gonna need to keep the focus on street crime," said special agent in charge Michael Anderson of the Chicago FBI office.

Read more: <https://www.brennancenter.org/publication/crime-trends1990-2016>

<http://www.fox32chicago.com/news/local/258177919-story>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/05/30/49-shot-chicago-memorial-day-weekend/102314944/>

McKinney Police Department Brings Things Back In House

Starting 07/21/2017 McKinney Police Department will no longer be utilizing PM AM as a billing vendor and will be bringing all alarm services back internally.

Their internal operation will not be up and running for at least another couple of weeks as they finalize installation of new software. During this time, no new permits will be issued, however they will respond to all alarm calls; with or without a permit.

For more info visit their web site <https://www.mckinneytexas.org/474/Alarm-Permits>

Flaw in home security system lets hackers remotely activate alarms

7.18.17 – ZDNet

It turns out that a so-called smart home security system isn't so smart -- or even that secure.

A maker of one home security system built by iSmartAlarm, which bills itself as the leader in do-it-yourself, internet-connected smart home security, has failed to patch several security flaws after they were privately disclosed to the company months ago.

The worst of the bugs is an authentication bypass bug, which could allow an attacker, among other things, to remotely control the system's alarms.

On one hand that's a nuisance at best, or a home exposed to burglars.

Researchers at cybersecurity firm BullGuard, which has a commercial interest in the Internet of Things security space, found several bugs in iSmartAlarm's Cube hub system, which controls the various sensors and cameras around the house. "An unauthenticated attacker can persistently compromise the iSmartAlarm by employing a number of different methods leading to full loss of functionality, integrity and reliability, depending on the actions taken by the attacker," said Ilia Shnaidman, head of security research at BullGuard, in a blog post. "For example, an attacker can gain access to the entire iSmartAlarm customer base, its users' private data, its users' home address, alarm disarming and 'welcome to my home sign'."

Shnaidman said through a technique that allowed him to generate a new encryption key, an attacker can sign and send a set of three commands -- disarm, arm, or panic (which sounds the alarm). Several other bugs in the software remain unpatched, including a flaw that allows an attacker to disable the unit through a denial-of-service attack. The researcher also found hard-coded plaintext credentials stored in the software, allowing an attacker full access to the company's support website -- which contains records and personal information on other customers.

Shnaidman published his findings after the company didn't reply to his private disclosure. The company's website shows there is no firmware later than March 21, suggesting the bugs have yet to be fixed. iSmartAlarm did not return a request for comment

[More Info](#)

FARA's Believe it or Not

By: Brad Shipp

- **AR: Police: Burglar breaks into Little Rock security system distributor ...**
6.22.17 - Arkansas Online - The man is seen on the video walking around inside before an alarm appeared to "startle him," the report noted. He then grabbed four amplifiers and handed ... [More Info](#)
- **CA: Jury Awards \$1M to Man Bit by Police Dog While Rescuing Cat**
6.15.17 - U.S. News & World Report - ... two days of deliberations in the case of 64-year-old Richard Earl May Jr., who entered a fenced construction site to retrieve the cat and triggered an alarm. [More Info](#)
- **IL: Police: 'Coincidence' sinks man accused of stealing guns near St. Charles**
7.6.17 - Daily Herald - A cleaning crew accidentally set off a burglar alarm at a St. Charles industrial park Tuesday and in the process inadvertently helped police catch a 25-year-old man accused of robbing ... [More Info](#)
- **ND: Man accused of pulling fire alarm at Fargo police station after getting impatient**
7.7.17 - [INFORUM](#) - Fargo – A 21-year-old man who went to the Fargo Police Department to file a police report became the subject of one instead. According to documents filed in Cass County District Court: Drew Douglas ... [More Info](#)
- **NM: Neighbors packing pistols and duct tape help Albuquerque ...**
6.22.17 - Wichita Eagle - An alarm system alerted the homeowner, who was able to watch the burglar on his phone. He called his neighbors, who grabbed pistols and duct tape and ... [More Info](#)
- **PA: Pet Squirrel That Foiled Idaho Home Burglary Rides Off Into the ...**
6.20.17 - NBC 10 Philadelphia - They bought supplies and set an alarm every two hours to feed him. Joey thrived, and soon had the run of the house, using a litterbox and learning to scavenge ... [More Info](#)

- **TX: Burglar in Cat in the Hat mask and two others caught on video breaking into La Porte school**
7.10.17 ABC13 Houston - Police shared video on their Facebook page Monday asking for the public's help in identifying three young burglars, one of whom was wearing a Cat in the Hat mask. The other suspect could ... [More Info](#)
- **UT: 'Fowl crime': Unusual suspects to blame for business break-in**
6.7.17 - KSL.com - Dye said an alarm was triggered, leading workers to investigate what had taken place. When those workers arrived, Dye said they found the office area of the ... [More Info](#)
- **WA: Thieves Try To Break Into ATM, Accidentally Set Cash On Fire**
6.3.17 - NDTV - According to the police, a fire alarm was set off early in the morning on May 30 after the thieves used a cutting tool to access the ATM. Firefighters responding to ... [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!

News on Door to Door Sales

Courtesy of NESAs

- **Police Warn Residents Criminals Are Targeting Homes With Alarm Company Signs**
6.26.17 - SSI - In Levelland, Texas, police say crooks knocked on doors posing as alarm technicians to gain entrance into homes. [More Info](#)
- **Alarm system employee imposter targets Darlington homes**
7.13.17 - WBTW - Myrtle Beach and Florence SC - A warning was put out by Darlington Police Chief Danny Watson on the department's Facebook page describing how a man came to the door of a city resident around 1 p.m. Wednesday claiming to be with the Alder Alarm Company that the residents have service with. [More Info](#)
- **People pose as ADT employees**
7.15.17 - WALB Albany - Residents told deputies that the people who approached them claimed to be with ADT and needed to come in and update their alarm system. Investigators say they were able to get in touch ... [More Info](#)
- **Residents being warned about door-to-door alarm system scams**
7.21.17 - New Orleans, LA (WVUE) - There is a warning about aggressive door-to-door sales people from out of town, canvassing area neighborhoods. [More Info](#)
- **Alarm system scam in Leander**
7.18.17 - NewsRadio KLBK, 590AM and 99.7 - Alarm system scam in Leander ... on the purchase of an alarm system, then the solicitation for more detailed personal information. [More Info](#)
- **Man impersonating alarm company employee targets Darlington ...**
7.17.17 - WWBD - Conway, SC - Home Local News Headlines Man impersonating alarm company employee ... Alder Alarm Company representatives told police no work order was made for the ... [More Info](#)
- **Vivint to Pay Wyoming \$100,000 in Door-to-Door Sales Settlement**
5.30.17 - SSI - Vivint is paying the state for alleged wrongdoings by the company's door-to-door salespeople, including violating the Consumer Protection Act. [More Info](#)
- **AG Paxton Reaches Settlement with Vivint and Warns Texans of ...**
6.1.17 - Texas Insider - Door-to-door salespeople for alarm systems must be registered with DPS's Private Security Board and are required to carry a DPS issued ID. Protect personal ...
 - [Texas Insider More Info](#)
 - [AG Paxton Release](#)
 - [Copy of Settlement](#)
- **AG warns Texans of door-to-door alarm systems sales tactics**
6.2.17 - KBTX - Door-to-door salespeople for alarm systems must be registered with DPS's Private Security Board and are required to carry a DPS issued ID. Protect personal ... [More Info](#)
- **An alarm security company lied to get a senior to switch, and then ...**
6.7.17 - Hawaii News Now - Pearl City resident Gayle Harimoto said a door-to-door salesperson claiming to be with ADT Security Services outright lied to her 89-year-old father in order to ... [More Info](#)
- **Local alarm company warns customers about door to door sales ...**
6.12.17 - KBTX - The attorney general's office is warning Texans about door to door alarm system sales tactics. Last week the office reached a settlement with the home ... [More Info](#)
- **Police warn of 'suspicious person' claiming to sell alarm systems ...**
6.13.17 - Fox 59 - Columbus, Ind. - The Columbus Police Department is warning residents about reports of a "suspicious person" selling alarm systems door to door. [More Info](#)

- **BBB warns of deceptive door to door home security sales**
6.14.17 - Alabama's News Leader - The Better Business Bureau is sounding the alarm about door to door security system sales. High pressure sales tactics can lock you into something you don't ... [More Info](#)
- **Mid-City residents report suspicious door-to-door sales of alarm ...**
6.16.17 - FOX 8 News WVUE-TV - She said a man came to her door trying to sell an alarm system package, and he even brought up the recent mass shooting that happened near Tulane and ... [More Info](#)
- **BBB warning Bay Area homeowners about door-to-door alarm sales ...**
6.16.17 - ABC Action News - Tampa, Fla. - A new warning tonight for homeowners across the Tampa Bay area. Each summer, thousands of consumers are targeted by deceptive ... [More Info](#)
- **BBB urges consumers to avoid doing business at the front door**
6.20.17 - News-Daily.com - Deceptive sales tactics - The most common scams that fall into this category include trying to sign up consumers with electricity wholesalers or alarm monitoring ... [More Info](#)

Public Safety Updates

Courtesy of NESAs

- **AZ: PV officials take on alarm companies**
7.20.17 - The Daily Courier - Chief says he worries about safety, they worry about profits... [More Info](#)
- **AZ: PVPD asks Town Council to change burglar alarm responds**
6.21.17 - Prescott Valley Tribune - Prescott Valley Police Department Chief Bryan Jarrell presents to the Prescott Valley Town Council about the department's response to false alarms. [More Info](#)
- **CA: Alameda County takes on surveillance technology regulations**
7.13.17 - Contra Costa Times - Alameda County has more than 1,000 surveillance cameras in its buildings that capture images of everyone who enters, yet no comprehensive policy as to who views the recordings, how long the ... [More Info](#)
- **CA: Manteca City Council needs to walk & chew bubblegum at same time**
6.21.17 - Manteca Bulletin - If a homeowner's burglar alarm goes off repeatedly, the police department fines the homeowner for wasting their time. Why are business property owners not ... [More Info](#)
- **CA: Pasadena hires company to dole out fees for false alarms reported ...**
6.21.17 - The Pasadena Star-News - Pasadena - The Pasadena Fire Department is hiring an outside company to manage fees for false alarms reported to the city. The company, Public Safety ... [More Info](#)
- **CA: Proposed surveillance guidelines take shape in Palo Alto, Calif.**
7.17.17 - SIW - Ordinance would require public vetting of existing and future surveillance technology in the city. [More Info](#)
- **CT: Police remind residents to renew their alarm registration**
6.11.17 - Easton Courier - The Easton Police Department reminds residents that the annual alarm use renewal fee for July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, is due and payable on or before ... [More Info](#)
- **FL: Palm Beach contractors to pay false alarm fines, not homeowners**
7.18.17 - Palm Beach Daily News - Palm Beach homeowners no longer will have to pay the bill when their workers accidentally set off fire alarms while on the job. [More Info](#)
- **FL: Technology speeds up alarm calls to 911 by 2-3 minutes in Manatee Co.**
7.5.17 - WTSP-TV Tampa - If your home has a security alarm, you hope that means help will get to you faster but it can sometimes slow things down. Manatee County is the second 9-1-1 center in the state and 25th ... [More Info](#)
- **FL JSO: Home, business owners with security systems must register ...**
6.6.17 - WJXT Jacksonville - Anyone in Jacksonville with a home or business security system is required to register their alarm by Aug. 31, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office announced ...
- **GA: Despite fight from companies, Sandy Springs OKs new false alarm ordinance**
7.19.17 - Northside Neighbor - The city of Sandy Springs' newly amended false alarm ordinance is unfair to alarm system companies and will put some out of business, alarm business leaders said. [More Info](#)
- **GA: False alarms cost taxpayers \$775K**
7.20.17 - WSB-TV 2 Atlanta - Plagued by false alarm calls that city officials say have tied up precious resources, Sandy Springs leaders are now going to hold alarm companies responsible for excessive calls ... [More Info](#)
- **IL: Homewood amends regulations on alarm system strobe lights**
7.14.17 - The Homewood-Flossmoor Chronicle - Trustees approved a change prohibiting the manual override of strobe lights in buildings connected to alarm systems. [More Info](#)
- **IL: Salem City Council Relaxes Penalties for False Police Alarms**
6.20.17 - WJBD Online - The Salem City Council has approved proposed changes in the penalties for false police alarms. Police Chief Sean Reynolds recommended the changes after ... [More Info](#)

- **IL: Salem Police Chief Says Alarm Fines Causing Unintended Side ...**
6.6.17 - WJBD Online - Salem Police Chief Shawn Reynolds is concerned the fines for excessive false alarms is having an unintended effect of some business owners no longer having ... [More Info](#)
- **MD: Police Department Launches Voluntary Surveillance Camera Registration Database**
6.30.17 - SSI - In Hagerstown, Md., police are asking for residents' consent to view security camera footage in the event of a crime or other incident for investigative purposes. [More Info](#)
- **MN: If you have a burglar alarm in St. Paul, things could get more ...**
7.18.17 - TwinCities.com-Pioneer Press - In St. Paul, maintaining an intruder alarm system could soon cost \$58 annually, which is more than double the current annual permit licensing fee. Meanwhile, the penalties for three or more false alarms in a year may double, as well. [More Info](#)
- **ND: Fargo police to resume giving fines for excessive alarm activations**
6.30.17 - INForum - Starting Saturday, July 1, the activation of an alarm system caused by anything other than an emergency or criminal activity will be subject to fines, the department said in a news release. [More Info](#)
- **OH: City officials mull revising alarm-system laws**
5.29.17 - Columbus Monthly - "One, the technology used in the alarm industry has changed significantly since this code was initially written and, therefore, an update is needed to adequately ... [More Info](#)
- **OH: Columbus hiking burglar alarm fees, fines**
6.20.17 - The Columbus Dispatch - City code required every home or business with an alarm to pay \$35 for a license. The change will increase the residential license fee to \$45 and then require .. [More Info](#)
- **OH: Columbus, Ohio hiking burglar alarm fees, fines**
6.21.17 - SDI - Fines for false alarms in city will now range from \$50 to \$1K. [More Info](#)
- **OH: New alarm software to help Mansfield reduce mistakes, enhance ...**
6.15.17 - Richland Source - Mansfield - City council approved the purchase of software and related training that is expected to reduce errors when alarm companies send information to ... [More Info](#)
- **OK: Tulsa family says police never showed up after a security company put ...**
7.19.17 - Fox23 - Tulsa OK - A local family says they were left high and dry as thieves broke into their vehicles. ... However, if an alarm company calls on a resident's behalf and police don't ... [More Info](#)
- **OR: Portland auditor blasts city's emergency bureau over 911 hold time ...**
6.7.17 - KATU - ... for years 911 operators within the bureau had known the information provided by bureau leadership to City Council was wrong and tried to "sound the alarm.". [More Info](#)
- **TN: 911 dispatcher makes mistake; homeowner waits 5 hours for police**
7.20.17 - WSMV - Nashville - A news release from the Metro Nashville Police Department claims the three are apologizing to a man after it took five hours to respond to a burglar alarm. [More Info](#)
- **TN: Metro officer decommissioned over stolen water bottle**
7.17.17 - WSMV Nashville - A Metro police officer has been decommissioned after allegedly taking a bottle of water from a refrigerator while investigating a false burglar alarm at a business. Central Precinct Officer ... [More Info](#)
- **TX: Midland Police Department introduces new tool to reduce false alarm activations**
6.28.17 - Midland - The Midland Police Department has introduced a new tool to help reduce the number of false alarm activations their officers respond to. According to a release, the new tool allows residents to apply and pay for alarm ... [More Info](#)
- **TX: MPD's alarm permit program now online**
6.19.17 - NewsWest9.com - The Midland Police Department received 6,746 alarm calls in 2016, 82 percent of which were false alarms. In an effort to reduce these false alarms, a new online .. [More Info](#)
- **TX: NOT A SCAM: Midland's False Alarm Reduction Program is Real**
6.28.17 - Midland, Texas (Local 2/Fox 24) - The City of Midland would like to notify residents that if you've received a letter in the mail regarding the False Alarm ... [More Info](#)
- **WA: Cop's Corner: The importance of alarm information, permits**
6.20.17 - goskagit.com - It's nearly 3 a.m. A police officer is dispatched to a 911 call of a burglary alarm at a local business. Upon arrival, officers determine the call is legitimate. They see ... [More Info](#)

Industry News

Courtesy of NESAs

- **Tyco Brand to Take on Johnson Controls Identity**
6.30.17 - SDM - Johnson Controls, which completed its merger with Tyco in September 2016, announced to customers their plans to transition the brand iden... [More Info](#)
- **ADT Remakes Commercial Division with Help From P1 Integrators**
7.3.17 - CI - A group of executives from integration companies acquired by Protection 1 play central role in helping ADT become a leading national accounts provider. [More Info](#)

- **Red Hawk Acquires Tele-Tector of Maryland**
7.11.17 - SDM - Red Hawk Fire & Security LLC, a provider in fire, life safety and security services and ranked No. 18 on the SDM 100, has acquired security systems integrator Tele-Tector of Maryland (TTM). [More Info](#)
- **Best Buy introduces 'smart home' service aimed at caretakers' needs**
7.12.17 - SIW - 'Assured Living' service offers free in-home assessments to design an appropriate array of monitors and devices... [More Info](#)
- **Alarm Company Owner in North Carolina Has License Revoked for ...**
5.31.17 - Security Sales & Integration - Alarm Company Owner in North Carolina Has License Revoked for Deception. The state accused Stanley Huffstetler IV for taking money "for services not ... [More Info](#)
- **Vector Security Acquires in Texas, Grows Gulf Region Footprint**
6.1.17 - SSI - The acquired company, Guardian Force Security Services, operates offices Nederland and Lufkin. [More Info](#)
- **Per Mar Security Services Acquires in Northwest Indiana**
6.2.17 - Security Sales & Integration - Southlake Security was founded and operated by Dan Barnes for nearly 40 years. Barnes focused on providing residential and small commercial alarm systems, ... [More Info](#)
- **Companies sue Schaumburg over new fire-alarm policy**
6.10.17 - Chicago Daily Herald - Six fire-alarm monitoring companies have sued the village of Schaumburg over a recent law directing all of the approximately 1,200 businesses in town to the ... [More Info](#)
- **Select Security Grows Operations in N.C. With 2 Acquisitions**
6.12.17 - SSI - These acquisitions will add 1,000 new customers to Select Security's existing branch operation. [More Info](#)
- **Select Security Acquires U.S. Customers of Canada-Based Alarm Force**
6.15.17 - SDM - Select Security, ranked No. 32 on the SDM 100, has entered into an agreement to purchase the United States subscribers from Toronto, Canada- based AlarmForce. [More Info](#)
- **Vivint Launches Smart Home Platform for Rental Properties**
6.20.17 - CEPro - Through Vivint Smart Properties, rental property developers and managers can take advantage of Vivint's professionally-installed smart home products like smart locks, lights, doorbell cameras, indoor cameras and thermostats. [More Info](#)
- **Comcast to Compete Head-On with Alarm.com, Offering Dealers 'Aggressive' Pricing**
5.23.17 - CEPro - Comcast/Xfinity will be "quite aggressive" in pricing its wholesale security and home automation service for independent dealers, competing with Alarm.com. Xfinity Home leader Dan Herscovici reveals plans at ISC West 2017. [More Info](#)
- **Home Security Co. Going On Trial**
6.15.17 - TMZ.com - "The facts revealed in this litigation raise the serious question whether a homeowner is better protected with an ACS home alarm system, or no alarm system at ...[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

False Alarm Reduction
Association
10024 Vanderbilt Circle, Unit 4
Rockville, MD 20850
Email: info@faraonline.org
<http://www.faraonline.org>
301-519-9237

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