



# InfoLink

Information for Public Safety False Alarm Reduction Professionals

## FARA InfoLink September 2015 Edition

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### Mark Your Calendars

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

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

A full information packet on the Austin Symposium will be emailed out soon!



## Volunteer Sought to Serve As Secretary

Under the FARA Bylaws the President of the FARA appoints a person to fill the unexpired portion of the previous Officer or Director's term. So please contact President Kerri McDonald if you are interested in serving.

The main job of the Secretary is to prepare and present accurate minutes of the proceedings at the Annual Meeting and all meetings of the Board of Directors. The Secretary also serves on the Board and participates in the deliberations at all to the meetings.

Any Public Safety Member can serve as Secretary.

Contact Kerri if you have questions or are interested in serving at [kmcdonald@riversideca.gov](mailto:kmcdonald@riversideca.gov) or (951) 826-5600.

## FARA's Believe it or Not

By: Brad Shipp

- **DC: What fire alarm? News team ignores it during broadcast**  
9.2.15 - The Daily Cardinal - It's hard to ignore the bells or whistles when a fire alarm goes off at work, but this news team did a fairly good job of it. [More Info](#)
- **FL: Several crooks caught after trying to hide out in an unusual spot.**  
9.9.15 - 7Online WSVN-TV - After triggering the security alarm from a store, the crooks fled the scene and tried to hide from police at a ... [More Info](#)
- **ID: Burglar Falls Through Loan Agency Ceiling, Police Say**  
9.22.15 - Twin Falls Times-News - When the suspect fell through the ceiling, it triggered the store's alarm and the would-be burglar left the agency without stealing anything, police said. ... [More Info](#)
- **IN: No charges for stranger caught napping in home**  
9.14.15 - Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - The man broke the alarm panel because he didn't like the noise it was making. According to the police report and police records, about two hours before the ... [More Info](#)
- **OH: Gorilla-masked man robs Toledo carry out**  
9.25.15 - Toledo News Now - Police responded shortly before 11 p.m. after a burglary alarm was triggered. Officers found 35-year-old Donnell Mathis dead near the ... [More Info](#)
- **OH: Guess Where This Jewel Thief Hid A Stolen Ring**  
9.25.15 - Huffington Post - The pair got trapped in an elevator that stopped when the store's alarm system was triggered, and they allegedly tried to hid the jewels behind elevator panels, ... [More Info](#)
- **OH: Man mistaken for hat-wearing bank robber seeks \$3.3 million**  
10TV - The teller panicked and hit the silent alarm, thinking he was a bank robber who had been seen wearing a Miami Heat hat. Valladares says that within minutes, ... [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](mailto:bradshipp@4yoursolution.com) and we'll put them in the next InfoLink for all to share!

## Violent Crime Rate Remained Unchanged; Property Crime Rate Declined in 2014

9.1.15 – SIA

The U.S. violent crime rate did not change significantly in 2014 compared to 2013, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. [More Info](#)

## News on Door to Door Sales

Courtesy of NESAs

- **Alarm company that misled Springfield woman will pay settlement**  
9.2.15 - Springfield News-Leader - The company, formerly known as APX Alarm Security Solutions, Inc., has faced similar accusations and legal actions in other states, according to the Better ... [More Info](#)
- **Alarming allegations against alarm company**  
9.5.15 - Allentown Morning Call - If a salesman comes to your door and says he's there to alert you that your current alarm company has gone under or was bought out by his company, don't buy ... [More Info](#)

- **Savannah Senior Citizen: Concerns about Security System**  
9.10.15 - WSAV-TV - A Savannah senior citizen is concerned about a door to door salesman who said he would upgrade her home alarm system. Instead, she says she was signed ... [More Info](#)
- **Pennsylvania Attorney General: Vision Security Misleads Consumers**  
9.8.15 – SSI - Vision Security has agreed to pay a \$30,000 fine after settling a claim... [More Info](#)
- **The Quest for Trust**  
9.10.15 – Security Info Watch - Avoiding deception and long-term deals in door-to-door sales may be the keys to success... [More Info](#)
- **Vivint barred from doing business in Ga. city**  
9.14.15 - Valdosta police revoke company's sales licenses. [More Info](#)
- **Top 1,443 Complaints and Reviews about Vivint**  
9.14.15 -www.consumeraffairs.com - The purpose of me opting for Vivint services, is not for the alarm system - it was ... Being that I signed up for a service that promised alarm, doorbell camera live ... [More Info](#)

## Public Safety Updates

*Courtesy of NESAs*

- **AL: EDITORIAL: Police should use care in deciding response to alarms**  
9.14.15 -Tuscaloosa News- Then one day, the wolf actually came and the boy found out why you don't raise the alarm without just cause. People take alarms seriously. There's a reason you ... [More Info](#)
- **AL: Tuscaloosa sets new rules for false alarms**  
9.2.15 - Tuscaloosa News - City leaders have enacted new rules governing fire and burglar alarms that are meant to deter alarm owners from allowing repeated false calls. [More Info](#)
- **FL: Bradenton daycare owner fined \$100 after third false alarm in three ...**  
9.15.15 - Bradenton Herald - An alarm was deliberately tripped at Little Seahorse Academy at 8:31 p.m. Tuesday, according to the Bradenton Police Department, and a message was left for officers who had fined the owner on Saturday. ... [More Info](#)
- **FL: Fire associations to provide clarity to confusing alarm law sponsored ...**  
9.24.15 - Tampabay.com - After the Times reported widespread confusion about a new state law governing smoke alarms, the Florida Fire Chiefs Association and the Florida Fire Marshals ... [More Info](#)
- **FL: Metro Buzz: False alarms in West Baton Rouge Parish could mean ...**  
9.4.15 - The Advocate - Commercial businesses in West Baton Rouge Parish will have to fork over more money in the future when firefighters respond to security system false alarms if ... [More Info](#)
- **KS: Lawrence pet businesses push for new fire codes**  
8.31.15 - 6News Lawrence - "All business, irregardless of their type, provide smoke detection integrated into an automatic fire alarm, a monitored fire alarm," said King. "So if something ... [More Info](#)
- **LA: Maryland company tapped to run NOPD false alarm program**  
9.21.15 - NOLA.com - CryWolf False Alarm Solutions, which, according to its website, has done work for police departments in Atlanta and Los Angeles, was one of two that submitted ...[More Info](#)
- **OH: Chagrin Falls fire chief believes photoelectric technology saved ...**  
9.21.15 - cleveland.com - According to the National Fire Protection Association, about 90 percent of all homes in the United States have at least one ionization smoke alarm installed. [More Info](#)
- **PA: Pittsburgh looks to automating false alarm fines**  
9.16.15 - Security Systems News – Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh is looking at automating collections for false alarm fines, according to a recent NPR report. Stan Martin, SIAC executive director, told ... [More Info](#)
- **TN: Schools may pay for false alarm calls**  
9.4.15 - Shelbyville Times-Gazette - An amendment is due to be made to the city alarm ordinance that may require county schools to pay a fine after three false calls. Last year, Shelbyville's council ... [More Info](#)
- **TX: Tyler City Council approves budget**  
9.22.15 - KSLA-TV - A decrease in burglary alarm fees for residential properties from \$50 to \$35, while commercial properties fees will increase to \$75. A new traffic signal monitoring ... [More Info](#)
- **WA: Reviews are in for city's false alarm program | More than 2800 ...**  
9.14.15 -Bellevue Reporter - The department is in the midst of implementing the false alarm ordinance, which ... Public Safety Corporation in May to manage Bellevue's false alarm program. [More Info](#)

## Industry News

Courtesy of NESAs

- **Alarm Detection Systems acquires Safe Systems**  
9.1.15 - SecurityInfoWatch - Alarm Detection Systems on Tuesday announced that it has acquired Safe Systems, a privately-owned provider of residential and commercial security services ... [More Info](#)
- **USAA invests in California smart-alarm technology company**  
9.2.15 - San Antonio Business Journal - The way Roost's service works is that it transforms existing home smoke and carbon monoxide alarms into smart alarms. By retrofitting existing alarms with the ... [More Info](#)
- **Vector Security acquires Pelican Security Network**  
9.2.15 - Security InfoWatch - Acquisition adds more than 17K customers to company's roster and expands their footprint into Louisiana and... [More Info](#)
- **Call for Action gets woman \$1669 security system refund**  
9.16.15 - W\*USA 9 - What would you do if you'd been paying \$50 a month for years, and the one night your home alarm goes off it's not connected to the security company? [More Info](#)
- **ADT Services Goes Live With ASAP Program**  
9.16.15 - Security Sales - ASAP is designed to increase the efficiency and reliability of emergency electronic signals from central alarm companies to Public Safety Answering Points ... [More Info](#)
- **TycoIS opens new center in Colorado, the first of several**  
9.23.15 - SSN - AURORA, Colo.—Systems integrator TycoIS has opened a new National Center of Excellence here as part of a larger plan to build a "global center of excellence network," Daryl Haga, director of Tyco's Global Center of Excellence, told Security Systems News. [More Info](#)

## FARA Mission Statement

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

## Contact Us

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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 us at 301-519-9237, or by e-mail at: [info@faraonline.org](mailto:info@faraonline.org)

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

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