



InfoLink

Information for Public Safety False Alarm Reduction Professionals

FARA InfoLink February 2007

In This Issue:

Important Training Symposium News

- Join Us for the Dallas Training Symposium
- FARA Secretary John Moorhouse Resigns
- Kerri McDonald Appointed as Secretary
- Applications Sought for Open Board Seat
- FARA Public Safety TIPS Developed
- New and Improved Professional Certification Exam will Debut in Dallas
- Nominations for FARA Achievement Awards Needed!
- LAST CALL!! - Nominations Needed for FARA Public Safety and Associate Members of the Year!
- Take Advantage of FARA Grant Opportunity to Attend Training Symposium
- Sponsorships Available for Training Symposium

General News

- SSI Hall Salutes Trio for Giving All
- PDQ Award Honors Brink's Success in Reducing False Alarms
- Lexington Needs Assistance
- Now Scheduling- FARA's Regional Training Seminar For 2007!
- CEU Requirements must be Submitted No later than MAY 2007!!
- Featured Bulletin – Maintaining Contact with your Alarm Company
- ECV Credited for 30% Reduction in Palm Beach False Alarms
- Canadian Security Assn. Members Using Cellular Backup
- New Austin Rules Fine Homeowners After 3 False Alarms
- Alarm Permits Required in Northern California City

Join Us for the Dallas Training Symposium

Registration packets for FARA's 2007 Annual International Training Symposium were mailed to members on October 20, 2006. Only one packet per department was sent. If you have not yet seen your packet, please visit our web site at www.faraonline.org where you can view and print a copy. The FARA Board and Conference Subcommittee are very excited about the vast array of classes on tap for 2007 and we think you will agree that it is a symposium you can't afford to miss! So visit the web site now and put through your request to attend **FARA's 2007 Annual International Training Symposium in Dallas April 23-27, 2007!**

The **Radisson Hotel Central Dallas** is the host hotel for 2007. FARA was able to obtain a special room rate of \$85 per night. This incredibly low rate should allow more people to attend than might otherwise be able to, and you can make your reservations right on-line at <http://www.faraonline.org/html/symposium.asp>. In order to ensure the reduced rate, you must **make your reservations no later than April 2, 2007**. We recommend, however, that you make your reservations early to ensure that you get in under the FARA block of rooms. Be sure to tell them you are with the FARA training symposium.

Information on **DISCOUNTS** for airfare, car rental and shuttle service is also posted on our site

<http://www.faraonline.org/html/symposium.asp>.

FARA Secretary John Moorhouse Resigns

Because he has been reassigned outside of the alarm unit, John Moorhouse of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office in Florida, has resigned as FARA Secretary.

John joined FARA in August of 2000 and was appointed FARA Secretary in April of 2003 and re-elected in 2005.

John joined Alachua County as a Deputy Sheriff in 1987, and has worked in numerous bureaus within the Sheriff's Office, including as Bureau Chief for the Combined Communications Center. He created the False Alarm Reduction Unit in August 2000 to handle the county's alarm ordinance. The City of Gainesville adopted a similar ordinance, and at the request of the City Manager, the Sheriff's Office now administers the City's Ordinance. John began implementing both Ordinances in October 2000.

He has also served on the Board of Directors for the Alarm Association of Florida and was active in the Law Enforcement Security Alliance.

"John has been a dedicated Secretary, who rarely missed a meeting. He has also has been a valuable contributing member of the FARA Communications Committee. He contributed to several documents, especially the Model for Electronic Filing of Alarm System Registrations. FARA owes John a debt of thanks. We will truly miss him, we wish him all the best in his future endeavors and hope for an opportunity to work with him again," says FARA President Norma Beaubien.

John remains at the Sheriff's office and can be reached at jmoorhouse@alachuasheriff.org.

Kerri McDonald Appointed as Secretary

During the January 23, 2007 FARA Board Meeting, President Beaubien appointed and the Board approved Kerri McDonald to fill the unexpired term of John Moorhouse as Secretary. Kerri was appointed to the At Large Seat in June of 2006 to fill the unexpired term of Stan Hanson, who resigned the seat in April of 2006 after being elected as 2nd Vice President.

Kerri, who runs the alarm unit for the Riverside Police Department in Riverside California, has served on several FARA committees and currently chairs the Exam Subcommittee of the Training and Certification Committee.

"Kerri has done a great job in overseeing our revision of the Professional Certification Exam and has made great suggestions on how we can make the program more user friendly. I truly appreciate her willingness to get involved and look forward to working with her as Secretary," says FARA President Norma Beaubien.

Applications Sought for Open Board Seat

Kerri McDonald's appointment as Secretary creates a vacancy on the Board in the At Large Director position. The vacancy will be filled according to the bylaws:

"In the case of a vacancy, resignation or removal of an Officer or Director, the President of the FARA shall designate a person to fill the unexpired portion of the previous Officer or Director's term."

The Board of Directors meets face to face at the annual symposium in the spring and also meets in the fall at a two day midyear meeting. The board also has monthly teleconferences that usually last 1 to 2 hours.

Any public safety member in good standing can serve as the At Large Director. If you are interested in serving on the board please contact Norma Beaubien at 240.773.6300 or by email at

FARA Public Safety TIPS Developed

A subcommittee of FARA's Training and Certification Committee has been working very hard to entirely revamp our Professional Certification Program, including new objectives and exams. The new exam will be given for the first time at the training symposium in Dallas.

In creating the new objectives, the subcommittee members discussed, at length, what attributes and knowledge a person should have to be named a Certified Alarm Manager. Once the objectives were rewritten and exam questions prepared, based on those objectives, it was obvious that not all of the information the subcommittee felt was important was contained within FARA documents. The information is available, and sometimes in oblique ways, from other sources or within FARA's regional training program (which is not something most members have access to). In an effort to ensure that those taking the exam can be as prepared as possible, the subcommittee created what are now being called Public Safety Tips. These tips deal with specific items within the objectives. The tips do not lend themselves to full-blown manuals or guides, but deal with important aspects of alarm management that Certified Alarm Managers must know. All are one-page documents.

1. 1+ Duress=False Alarms
2. Alarm System Fundamentals
3. Billing Options
4. Common Entry-Exit Errors
5. Communication Reduces False Alarms
6. Education Reduces False Alarms
7. Evaluate, Adjust & Succeed
8. False Alarms Quantified
9. How to Pass Your Ordinance
10. How to Succeed in Your Alarm Unit
11. Major Causes of False Alarms
12. Major Impacts of False Alarms
13. Make A List and Check it Twice
14. Prime Solutions To False Alarms
15. Proactive Alarm Company False Alarm Prevention
16. Standards Can Reduce False Alarms
17. What to do After a False Alarm

Visit the member's only section of the FARA website to download copies.

New and Improved Professional Certification Exam will Debut in Dallas

The FARA Professional Certification Exam will be offered on Friday April 27, 2007 from 1-4pm. The exam has been revised to reflect new documents that have been developed since the exam was initially developed. Also new this year is a Professional Certification Exam Prep Class that will be offered on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 from 2:15-3pm. This Q&A session will cover what to expect and how to prepare yourself and your materials. This class is open only to those enrolled to take FARA's Professional Certification Exam. For more information visit <http://www.faraonline.org/members/html/certification.asp>

Nominations for FARA Achievement Awards Needed!

FARA is dedicated to honoring those in our profession, who have shown exemplary commitment to the reduction of false alarms and to establishing and maintaining positive working relationships among all parties involved. Are you proud of your alarm management program? Do you have a terrific success story to share? Do you want the world to know about it? If so, then tell us! Too often, the wonderful work done in False Alarm Reduction Units throughout North America goes unnoticed. We want to recognize your efforts and provide you with a wonderful plaque you can display in your office to show

others how significant your accomplishments are. How would you like to be able to return from Dallas with a coveted Achievement Award that you can share with your Chief or Sheriff? (Attendance at the training symposium is **not** required for nominations to be considered.) Let us help you advertise your success.

Please send in your nominations for FARA's False Alarm Reduction Achievement Awards. Feel free to nominate your own agency/company or others. Both public safety and associate members can submit nominations for any category listed below. All submitted nominations will be provided to the attendees in Dallas. All attendees will then cast a vote on who their favorite is in each category. As such, your nomination should contain sufficient information to allow those voting to understand what the accomplishment is and how you were able to achieve it. You may use narrative, charts, graphs or any combination of the three. Please limit your nomination to no more than four (4) pages in length. The Achievement Awards will be presented during the Dallas training symposium.

- **Public Safety False Alarm Reduction Achievement Award:** This award is presented to the public safety agency that has an alarm management program, which has shown meaningful or significant reduction in the number of false alarms over a 3 to 5 year period.
- **Industry False Alarm Reduction Achievement Award:** This award is presented to an individual alarm company that has implemented and sustained an alarm management program, which has shown meaningful or significant reduction in the number of false alarms over a 3 to 5 year period.
- **FARA Achievement Award:** This award is presented to an individual, company or association that has demonstrated significant or meaningful contributions toward the FARA mission.

Past winners can be viewed at http://www.faraonline.org/html/success_stories.asp

We know that great things are being done by public safety and alarm industry alike to combat false alarms. Tell us what you have done and let us help you get the recognition you deserve with an Achievement Award. **Nominations must be submitted on or before April 13, 2007 to be considered. Please submit your nominations to FARA c/o Brad Shipp at bradshipp@4yoursolution.com or via fax at 301/519-9508.**

LAST CALL!! Nominations Needed for FARA Public Safety and Associate Members of the Year!

The FARA Norma C. Beaubien Public Safety and W. Rex Bell Associate Member of the Year Awards are the highest honor FARA gives to deserving individuals, who demonstrate a significant commitment and contribute the most to their department or company, the community and to FARA. Do you know anyone who fits this bill? Please tell us and let us honor them with these coveted awards. Once again, both public safety and associate members can submit nominations for either category.

Past winners can be viewed at http://www.faraonline.org/html/success_stories.asp

Please submit your written nomination detailing the reasons you believe the individual nominated deserves such an award. Please limit your nomination to one (1) page or less. **Submit your nominations to FARA c/o Brad Shipp at bradshipp@4yoursolution.com or via fax at 301/519-9508 no later than March 23, 2007.**

Take Advantage of FARA Grant Opportunity to Attend Training Symposium

The Security Industry Alarm Coalition has provided FARA with funding for grants to cover the registration fee for the training symposium. Your ability to receive the grant, valued at \$349, could be the difference between your training or executive staff approving or denying your request to attend! The grant application will only take a minute or two to complete, so what have you got to lose?

You can download the grant application at <http://www.faraonline.org/grantapplication.pdf>. Under the terms of the grant, you agree to attend the training provided at the symposium and you must submit written approval from your department to attend. That's it! If you have any questions about the grant

application or process, please contact FARA's Executive Director at bradshipp@4yoursolution.com or at 301/519-9237.

Sponsorships Available for Training Symposium

In the past, we have been very fortunate to receive sponsorships, which allow FARA to provide free breakfasts, numerous lunches, and break-out snacks and refreshments, as well as symposium handouts and programs. It is through this generous support that we can keep costs down and allow many more alarm management professionals to attend than would otherwise be able. Sponsorship opportunities for the 2007 Annual International Training Symposium are available and we are grateful for any support you can offer. To learn more about how you can help or become a sponsor, please review the sponsorship opportunities in the training symposium registration packet or contact Brad Shipp at 301/519-9237. All FARA members are thankful for your continued support.

SSI Hall Salutes Trio for Giving All

By Scott Goldfine scott.goldfine@bobit.com

Throughout history, the most remarkable people have left their imprints on humankind by virtue of their actions. These heroic figures are altruistic men and women whose impact supersedes mere words, titles or affiliations. The electronic security industry is fortunate to have such dedicated, selfless individuals toil within its ranks.

This year three of them are being honored for their tireless efforts via induction into the Security Sales & Integration Hall of Fame. They are **False Alarm Reduction Association (FARA) President and Director of the Montgomery County (Md.) Department of Police False Alarm Reduction Section Norma Beaubien**, System Sensor Director Corporate Relations Charlie Darsch and former Bosch Security Systems National Accounts Sales Manager Harvey Eisenstadt.

They share the common thread of expending boundless energy and devoting countless hours during the course of several decades to a wide variety of key industry organizations, events, issues and causes. The entire industry owes them a sincere debt of gratitude as thousands have reaped the benefits of the hard work, blood and sweat that have earned them a spot in the SSI Hall.

Established in 2004 to represent the ultimate recognition for performance excellence, the SSI Hall of Fame annually enshrines those uncommon people who have etched out an indelible impression within the profession, sustained over the course of an entire career. These rare persons' dedication and accomplishments make them uniquely irreplaceable. They are the innovators whose impact has molded and transformed the industry into the thriving, vibrant business it is today.

Selected by a panel of previous inductees and other industry leaders, Beaubien, Darsch and Eisenstadt join the pantheon of other industry greats forever immortalized in the SSI Hall of Fame, which now totals 37 members. As you will see in the ensuing profiles, this trio's impeccable credentials and valuable contributions are indisputable.

Norma Beaubien

Current Status

President of False Alarm Reduction Association (FARA) and Director of Montgomery County (Md.) Department of Police False Alarm Reduction Section

Why She's on the List

- Spent more than 20 years dedicated to creating forums and easing tensions between law enforcement agencies and the alarm industry regarding false alarms
- Co-founder and long-time president of FARA, an organization for facilitating optimal communications among law enforcement, alarm companies and end users to stem false alarms
- Turned FARA into clearinghouse for false alarm manuals, guides, prevention bulletins, brochures,

model ordinances and white papers for public safety and the alarm industry

- In law enforcement capacity, manages program that has reduced false alarm dispatches by almost 62 percent as alarm user base grew 115 percent; her initiatives have saved the department more than \$12.5 million in resources since 1995
- In 2005, helped found, launch and administrate the Police Dispatch Quality (PDQ) Award program, which honors alarm companies for false alarm reduction efforts

Most Memorable Moment

"In FARA's early days, as an exhibitor at IACP's annual convention in Charlotte, we had to stay at an unaffiliated hotel. When we arrived, our vice president picked up her room phone only to send numerous cockroaches scurrying for cover. The rest of us went to the hotel restaurant, which turned out to be a sleazy biker bar. We then noticed the lobby featured an automated condom machine. We tried without luck to find another hotel. So, persevere we did!

"I left my room the next morning and was greeted by a man sitting in the hallway in his underwear smoking a cigarette. Later, while waiting in the lobby for the free shuttle to the convention center, an old man with one eye and a very hunched back came in and announced he was our driver. This trip was a never-ending display of 'Oh, my God!' moments."

How Things Have Changed

"I believe both law enforcement and the electronic security industry are more willing to engage in discussions, entertain the other's viewpoint and gain a better understanding of each other's positions on alarm management techniques.

"Law enforcement has been forced to do more with less due to the 9/11 attacks. The Columbine High School massacre required us to look at how we deal with school violence. Meanwhile populations grow but most budgets remain constant or decrease. These trends place pressure on law enforcement.

"The electronic security industry has blossomed the past 10 years due to advancements in technology. Alarm companies can now offer more than a basic alarm system. These advancements have opened doors, and many are taking advantage of that."

What the Future Holds

"It is my hope law enforcement and the industry will continue to develop strong working relationships that will have a positive impact on alarm management issues. As long as the industry continues to view false alarms as a plague and takes substantive and proactive measures to address them, law enforcement will continue, for the most part, to work cooperatively with it."

Something People Might Not Know

"I race in demolition derbies. There is nothing else in this world like the feeling you get when you can legally drive 'hell bent for leather' ramming your 2,000-pound vehicle into someone else's! Engines racing, the sounds made at impact, the smell of burning oil, the cheering crowds — it is a rush like no other."

Reaction to Being Inducted

"I am truly humbled to be the first public safety professional inducted into the SSI Hall of Fame. It is very rewarding to be respected and honored by an industry I ultimately regulate, and shows I am capable of building bridges and fostering an environment where both sides feel comfortable exchanging ideas."

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PDQ Award Honors Brink's Success in Reducing False Alarms

Feb 1, 2007, IRVING, TEXAS -- Brink's Home Security has been awarded the 2nd Annual Police Dispatch Quality Award (PDQ) for excellence in minimizing false police dispatches in Montgomery County (Md.). The Security Industry Alarm Coalition (SIAC), False Alarm Reduction Association (FARA) and *Security Sales & Integration* sponsor the award.

In winning the 2007 PDQ honor, Brink's demonstrated its commitment to false alarm reduction through its very low police dispatch rates, says FARA President Norma Beaubien.

Brink's Home Security has a combined residential and commercial police dispatch rate in Montgomery County of .17, which places it in the top 1 percent of lowest dispatch rates for companies with more than 50 customers in the county. The national average for police dispatch rates is nearly 1.0, which means every alarm system has at least one false alarm every year.

"Public safety personnel respond to less than one false alarm for Brink's Home Security customers every five years, which is truly remarkable," Beaubien told *SSI*.

Brink's installs control panels that meet the SIA CP-01 control panel standard, approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), which are proven to reduce false dispatches. Brink's also voluntarily employs the use of enhanced call verification (ECV), which entails an alarm company making two calls in an attempt to verify an alarm signal before requesting a public safety dispatch.

"They are seriously committed to training their service and installation technicians, who, in turn, provide outstanding instruction to each and every customer on the appropriate use and operation of the alarm system, as well as how to avoid false dispatches," Beaubien says.

Dave Simon, senior manager of industry and public relations for Brink's, says the company made a commitment nearly 10 years ago to explore ways to reduce false alarms.

"Our goal was to do that not only as a company, but also by participating in alarm industry associations and by sharing what we've learned," he says. "We changed some processes internally — like ECV and targeted customer training — that clearly demonstrated results. We are extremely pleased to receive the PDQ award because it recognizes our company-wide effort."

As the PDQ winner, Brink's will be formally recognized with a special plaque at *SSI*'s SAMMY Awards gala March 27 at 4:30 p.m. at the Venetian Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Their trip to the event will be funded by Honeywell's \$1,000 sponsorship. Also for its winning efforts, Brink's and a local law enforcement representative will receive a hometown ceremony, and the company will share its best practices in an upcoming feature article in *SSI*.

SIAC, FARA and *SSI* launched the PDQ program to stem the false alarm problem by recognizing those installing and monitoring companies that follow established industry practices and partner with law enforcement to achieve the highest quality in police dispatch requests. Pittsburgh-based Vector Security captured the inaugural award in 2006.

The 2007 PDQ Award runner-up, Alarm Detection Systems (ADS) of Aurora, Ill., also distinguished itself as a leader in false alarm prevention initiatives throughout its company, Beaubien says. ADS employs a full-time false alarm team that tracks alarm usage for all customers and pays onsite visits to "high frequency offenders." The false alarm team manager has the authority to initiate system repairs in the event of equipment-related false alarms.

More details of the PDQ Award program will be featured in the March issue of *SSI* and subsequent features later in the year.

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Lexington Needs Assistance

The Lexington Police Department is in the process of modifying their businesses and residential permit forms to make them more user-friendly. They are looking for forms that are self explanatory with good design that raise few questions in completing the applications.

Please email copies or links to website of forms to:

Sergeant April Brown Alarm Administrator

Lexington Police
150 E. Main St.
Lexington, KY 40507
859-425-2337
jbrown2@lfucg.com

Now Scheduling- FARA's Regional Training Seminar For 2007!

Testimonials from previous class attendees include:

- *" the subject matter was presented by professional, hands-on instructors"*
- *"it was a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with other alarm coordinators who experience similar problems"*
- *"networking, new ideas, I had no clue of FARA's existence!"*
- *"the friendliness and openness of the FARA members and their willingness to share their knowledge, experience, policies and practices"*
- *"honestly, nothing negative can be said"*
- *"interaction between police services, alarm companies and end users was the best"*

The testimonial excerpts mentioned above are just a small sampling of the overwhelming support of the FARA Regional Training Seminar that is available to all law enforcement agencies, alarm industry and alarm users in the U.S. and Canada!

The False Alarm Reduction Association, one of today's most respected law enforcement associations created to help contend with what appears to be endless false alarm response problems, has developed a comprehensive, interactive two-day training course designed to teach you how to design, adopt, fund and implement a successful false alarm reduction program.

You'll learn the vital skills necessary to handle your false alarm problems. Whether you're new to the world of false alarm reduction or are a well-established unit, you'll take home numerous ideas, imaginative solutions and best practices that can be put into use the very next day.

You Will Learn:

- How to identify the extent of the problem
- False alarm causes and how to avoid them
- Benefits of alarm management
- How to evaluate successful programs
- Getting your ordinance adopted or enhanced
- Implementation of your program
- How to fund your program
- Communication is the key
- Options to design your own program

If your agency's desire is to be one of the first in 2007 to bring the most credible and objective false alarm reduction seminars to your jurisdiction, please contact either Stan Hanson, Chair of FARA's Training and Certification Committee, or Brad Shipp, FARA's Executive Director, and they will be ready to assist your

agency in making this False Alarm Reduction Seminar become a reality in your jurisdictional area. With possible grant monies available, sponsorship by local alarm industry representatives or businesses within your community, we can keep costs down and offer an instructional packed seminar that will help all alarm coordinators, administrators, unit managers, alarm industry representatives and alarm users alike learn what they need to know to create a totally effective false alarm reduction program to combat a longtime nuisance to law enforcement. If you truly desire positive results please contact FARA's representatives today.

Be the first in line to book FARA's

2007 Seminar to Success!

CEU Requirements Must Be Submitted No Later Than MAY 2007!!

In order to retain an active FARA Professional Certification designation, each participant must annually obtain one hundred Continuing Education Units (CEUs). It was announced this past April at our 2006 Symposium in San Francisco that all CEU Credits to be considered must be submitted no later than May 2007. Unless the proper number of units is earned and submitted, certifications will become inactive on that date.

Listed activities have been pre-approved for credit. All Certified Alarm Managers may obtain a copy of Pre-Approved Activities by clicking on the link below. Participants may also submit additional activities for consideration for credit. Please submit your inquiry to the FARA Training and Certification Committee. Committee members also decided that a small sub-committee of members of FARA Certified Alarm Managers should be formed to consider any other activities that may be submitted for credit that is not presently listed on the Pre-Approved Activities list. It was further determined that the most equitable manner for FARA to consider unlisted additional activities as acceptable activities for CEU Credits, is by a peer group of Certified Alarm Managers. If you would like to serve on this special sub-committee, please submit your name in writing to either Stan Hanson, Chair of the Training and Certification Committee, or to Brad Shipp, Executive Director of FARA. You will be notified as soon a sub-committee can be formed. If a consensus on a particular activity still cannot be agreed upon, an appeal could be submitted. A decision by FARA's Board of Directors on any appeal would then be final.

Thank you in advance for your attention to the above matter.

Stan Hanson
Training and Certification Comm., Chair
Email: hansos@pbfl.org

Pre-Approved CEU Requirements link: [If you attend the Dallas 2007 Symposium, which counts towards your CEU's for Re-Certification, PLEASE remember to have those hours signed-off by myself, Brad or Norma before leaving the conference.](#)

http://www.faraonline.org/Pre-Approved_Activities_CEU_List_8-4-06.pdf

Featured Bulletin – Maintaining Contact with Your Alarm Company

This bulletin stresses the need for alarm users to contact their alarm company to update current cellular phone numbers and other necessary number changes for everyone who has keys to the user's home or business.

The full list of bulletins, which have been approved by the board, can be accessed on our web site at http://www.faraonline.org/html/consumer_tips.html

ECV Credited for 30% Reduction in Palm Beach False Alarms

Feb 7, 2007, FRISCO, TEXAS -- Palm Beach County has shown a significant reduction in false dispatches following the instatement of a Florida law governing burglar alarm response. The law calls for state dispatchers to use Enhanced Call Verification (ECV), the practice of calling two phone numbers before dispatching police to an alarm. When implemented on July 1 of last year, Florida became one of the first states in the country to require such a practice. As a result, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department reduced its dispatches from 12,712 between October-December 2005 to 8,802 during the same time frame in 2006.

Sheriff's Department officials estimate approximately 80 percent of the improvement can be attributed to ECV, which was passed along with other dispatch reduction methods.

With numbers just beginning to become available from across the state, the Alarm Association of Florida (AAF) claims nearly every county appears to have made positive progress.

The proliferation of cell phones is credited as a major proponent for law enforcement agencies across the county to implement ECV, according to the Security Industry Alarm Coalition (SIAC).

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Canadian Security Assn. Members Using Cellular Backup

Feb 1, 2007, MARKHAM, ONTARIO, CANADA -- The Canadian Security Association (CANASA) has announced to its members that several wireless communications systems providers have been contacting installing companies and falsely asserting that all Canadian cellular service providers would begin shutting down analogue telephone networks on May 15.

Along with incorrectly stating the networks would be shuttered permanently by June 15, the providers admonished installers to purchase their products before the sunset deadline.

To combat the disinformation, CANASA released the following information to its members:

- Rogers Wireless, the "A" side carrier, has announced that its analog cellular network is targeted to be shut down May 31. While service may continue in some areas after that date, installers are encouraged to work toward a May 31 sunset.
- Bell Mobility has advised CANASA that it will be continuing the Advanced Mobile Phone Services (AMPS) "at least until Feb. 28, 2008."
- Each of the Cellular Alarm Transmission Product manufacturers have communicated with their customers or will be doing so shortly about the status of their individual products.

CANASA also encouraged its members who have used cellular communications products to commence replacement of devices as soon as possible to ensure continued protection for their customers.

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New Austin Rules Fine Homeowners After 3 False Alarms

Jan 10, 2007, AUSTIN, TEXAS -- Austin homeowners will face being hit with harsher fines for false alarms on home security systems, according to a newspaper report. A 2005 state law allowed cities to increase fines for false burglar alarms, and Austin started charging slightly larger fines three months ago, according to the American-Statesman.

The Austin City Council is considering adding the changes to a city ordinance, the newspaper reported. Homeowners used to be charged \$50 for six or more false alarms in a year. They can now be charged \$50 for four or five false alarms in a year, \$75 for six or seven and \$100 for eight or more, the newspaper reported. The fine remains \$100 for three or more false alarms on panic buttons, which signal immediate danger. Austin police responded to 23,800 false alarms in 2006.

Alarm Permits Required in Northern California City

Jan 22, 2007, ELK GROVE, CALIF. -- The city of Elk Grove recently mandated that residents and business owners who have an alarm system must have an alarm permit on file with the police department, according to a newspaper report. The permit is required whether an alarm company monitors the system or not. The police department began tracking and billing for false alarms in December.

Under Elk Grove's alarm ordinance, alarm system owners pay no fee for the first two false or panic alarms in a calendar year, the Sacramento Bee reported. The fee for a false burglary alarm is \$75 for a third incident, \$100 for the fourth, \$200 for the fifth and \$250 for the sixth and any subsequent false alarm. For a false panic alarm, the fee for a third incident is \$150, \$200 for the fourth, \$250 for the fifth and \$300 for the sixth and subsequent false panic alarm. Within 15 days of the installation of an alarm system, businesses and homeowners are required to obtain an alarm permit from the department, the newspaper reported. The one-time fee for a new alarm permit is \$50. Once on file, the permits must be renewed every three years. The renewal is free as long as the application is submitted before the deadline.

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 managers 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 law enforcement, 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>

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

Submitted articles in this newsletter are the expressed opinions of the authors and do not necessarily

reflect the opinions of the Officers and Directors of FARA.