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"QUALITY AND PEACE OF MIND SINCE 1969"

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THE ADVISOR

*A Quarterly Security Guide Especially
Prepared for the Clients and Friends of A.A.S.C.O.*

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A Troubled Economy Triggers More Holiday Crime

It's an annual tradition right up there with holiday travel and family get-togethers. Whenever the economy goes into a slump, crime statistics show a big jump in reported cases of holiday theft. While, obviously, there are no numbers available for the coming season yet, police departments across the country know that, historically and predictably, professional and amateur criminals will be significantly more active during the months ahead.

A troubled economy can mean an increase in what are, essentially, money-focused crimes, such as street robberies, mugging-type incidents and purse-snatchings.

Quite often, holiday crimes focus on the victim's vehicle. Robberies in parking lots, and sometimes even in driveways, are typical crime scenarios at this time of year. Thieves also like to hit unattended, unlocked vehicles, or simply ones with lots of merchandise plainly on display inside. Some thieves will even stake out the parking lots at upscale stores and wait for unsuspecting patrons to return to their vehicles with their arms full of expensive merchandise that can be easily "snatched" before the victim has time to react.

A shopper's best recourse is to be aware of his or her

surroundings, and to have a plan:

- Make sure you look around before you approach your vehicle.
- Have your keys ready and keep one hand free.
- Don't look like a pushover. Display confidence and walk with a purpose—most criminals prefer easy targets.
- Don't overburden yourself with packages—it makes you look vulnerable.
- If you're concerned about your safety, ask a security guard to walk you to your vehicle.

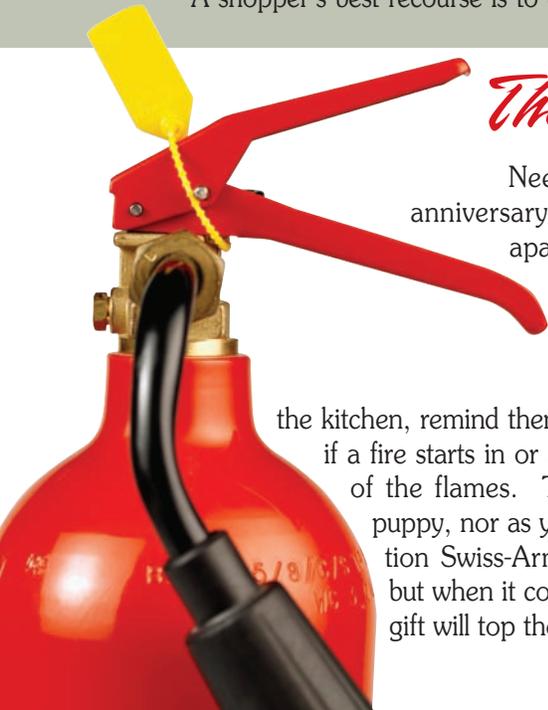
This should be the season of the year for joy and happy times. If you follow these simple, common sense precautions, you and your loved ones should all have a holiday season that's merry and bright. ❖



The Gift Of Safety

Need an idea for a truly meaningful wedding present, anniversary gift, house-warming present for your oldest's first apartment? Consider giving a 5-pound, ABC-rated fire extinguisher. It's the perfect size for most homes, yet many of us just never get around to picking one up for the kitchen, or shop, or garage, or wherever.

And, remember, if the recipient intends to use it in the kitchen, remind them not to store it above the range or stove top, because if a fire starts in or on the stove, they may not be able to reach it because of the flames. To be sure, a fire extinguisher is not as cuddly as a puppy, nor as yummy as a fine Chablis, nor as practical as a combination Swiss-Army-Knife/Can Opener/Blender/Alarm-Clock/Radio—but when it comes to a positive affirmation of care and concern, your gift will top the list of genuine Thank you's! ❖



What's Inside:

- ◆ 24-Hour Monitoring: Your Third-Level Of Defense
- ◆ Identity Theft—Ways To Protect Yourself
- ◆ Protecting Your Prized Possessions
- ◆ Safety For Senior Citizens



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24-Hour Monitoring: Your Third- Level Of Defense



Most of today's home security systems include distinct alarm signals that sound when either a perimeter sensor (such as an entranceway contact or glass-break detector) or an interior protection device (such as a motion detector) is triggered by an intruder. These audible alarms serve to alert you, your neighbors and, simultaneously, the intruder, that his or her presence has been detected. Unfortunately, not all intruders are frightened away by audible alarms alone. Plus, neighbors may not always hear the alarm when you're away from your home—or, they may not always respond immediately by telephoning the authorities. Also, one of the best reasons to monitor a system is to get a response for environmental sensors (fires, floods, etc.).

Detection and audible warnings may not be enough. What is needed to complete your home security "umbrella" is the third-level of protection and defense—and that is appropriate action.

If you already use a 24-hour monitoring service, you know the peace-of-mind it can bring. However, for those security system owners without monitoring, we'd like to point out some of the unique advantages of off-premises monitoring.

Monitored alarm systems use a digital communicator. In the event of an intrusion or other emergency, it seizes a telephone line—either hardwired or wireless, depending on the system configuration—and transmits an alarm signal to the central monitoring station. When the central monitoring station operator receives the alarm, he or she follows a prescribed procedure—which, in the case of a two-way voice communication system, can include the ability to immediately hear what is happening at your home and speak to you. Once the validity of the alarm is validated, the operator has the ability to dispatch the appropriate emergency response personnel to your home. Typically, central monitoring stations are extremely high-tech, high-security facilities with full power, phone line and computer back-up systems offering virtually fail-safe protection 24-hours a day.

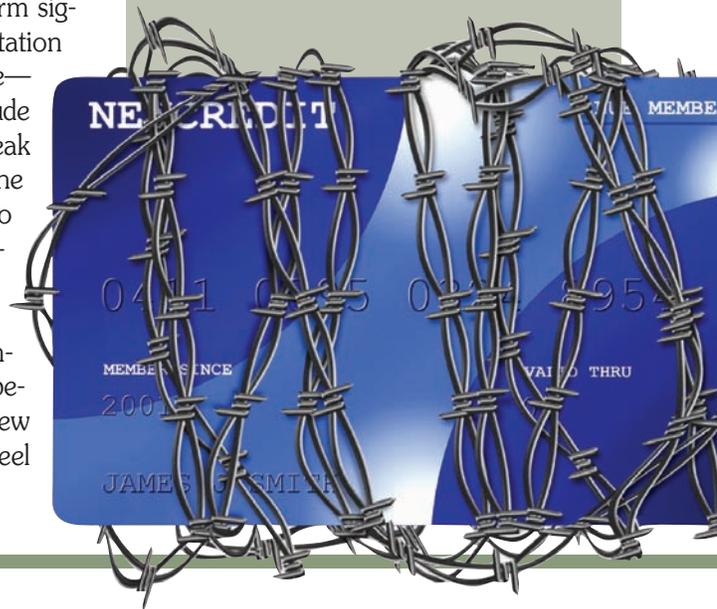
Unmonitored systems rely on the home's occupants—or neighbors—to take appropriate action. This can result in precious time lost before local authorities are contacted. For a complete, no-obligation review of the advantages of off-premises monitoring for your home, please feel free to give us a call. ❖

Despite the perverse nature of identity theft crimes, victims almost always find it difficult to get meaningful help from government agencies. It isn't a violent crime. So, there isn't enough funding available to support dedicated investigative resources to help victims resolve the "horrible turn of events" that have ruined their financial standings and credit ratings.

It's up to you to be proactive in your efforts to protect yourself from identity theft. Experts include these four tips:

1. Always shred applications for credit cards before tossing them in the trash.
2. Keep accurate records of your credit card purchases and check your bills carefully every month. Report any unfamiliar charge to your credit card company or bank immediately.
3. Never give your date of birth, Social Security number, or mother's maiden name to anyone who CALLS YOU on the telephone—no matter who they claim to be, or what company they claim to represent. Always ask for the company's main business number. Verify it with your phone company's information service. Then call the individual back.
4. Check your credit ratings periodically to look for errors. ❖

IDENTITY THEFT—WAYS TO PROTECT YOURSELF





Protecting Your Prized Possessions

Safety For Senior Citizens

If you, or a loved one, are overly concerned about being victimized, here are some common sense precautions that can help to conquer the fearfulness and also prevent actual crimes:

- Go places with your friends or family, not alone.
- Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps.
- Carry your wallet in an inside coat pocket or in a front trouser pocket.
- Don't carry credit cards or large amounts of cash with you if you don't need them.
- Use direct deposit for any checks you receive on a regular basis.
- Whether you are the driver of a vehicle or a passenger, always keep the doors locked.
- Sit close to the driver when riding in a bus.
- If someone makes you feel uneasy, trust your instincts and leave.

It's an interesting paradox. Older citizens are generally fearful of being victimized by criminals. However, statistically, as people grow older their chances of becoming victims of physical attack or street-crime actually decrease. In reality, senior citizens are actually more apt to become victims of fraud and con games rather than victims of assault or other physical threats. ❖

True, your home's exterior perimeter and interior spaces are protected by your home's security system when it is armed. But, what about precious or prized possessions inside your home—are there ways to protect them even when the main security system is deactivated? The final answer is, YES, and here are just a few examples of the specialized security options we can offer you:

Jewelry, silverware and other small valuables can be protected with special alarm contacts on drawers and/or cabinet doors.

Both wall safes and free-standing safes can be equipped with tamper-proof contacts, which, in addition to the safe's own tumbler mechanism, will make them virtually burglar-proof.

Paintings and sculptures can also be protected. Paintings can be shielded with an infrared curtain that will detect any attempt to remove them. Sculptures can be protected with pressure switches under their bases so that an alarm will sound if anyone picks them up.

Cabinets that hold valuables, such as antique china or porcelains, can be equipped with both door contacts as well as glass-break sensors. Gun cabinets can also be protected with either door contacts, infrared motion detector curtains, or can also be physically fitted with security cable to prevent firearm removal.

Coin collection or stamp collection display cases can be protected with either pressure switches, alarm contacts and/or glass-break sensors.

Even though we strongly recommend that every home owner we serve keep their doors locked at all times and arm their system whenever they leave their home, we also realize that in the real world that ideal of "optimum security" at all times can be overlooked or inconvenient, at times. As a fall-back level of protection, if you own priceless or valuable possessions, you might want to consider adding specialized security measures to your existing system. Some systems have several supplemental systems within one control. Feel free to call us for a no-obligation assessment and security option recommendations that suit your needs and lifestyle. ❖



Dear Valued Client,

We'd like to take this opportunity to send you and yours our sincere best wishes for a safe, secure and happy holiday season. As your "personal-specialists" in the area of home security and safety, we're committed to all aspects of protection for you and your family—both at home and on-the-go. It's all part of our professional goal to provide you with practical advice, superior quality products, and exceptional service year-in and year-out.

Sincerely,

Mike Meyers, President
Eagle Security

When was the
last time you
tested your
security system?

If you refer
someone to us
who purchases a
complete security
or fire alarm
system, we will
show our
appreciation with
2 months of
FREE monitoring
or credit.



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Bad Weather Preparedness

Not so long ago, "weather" was a mostly predictable seasonal event—cold winters, soggy springs, hot summers, colorful falls. In recent years "bad" weather seems to have a mind of its own. Drought here and floods there, blizzards here and record "warm spells" there—all added to wildfires, tornados, hurricanes, electrical brownouts, rolling-blackouts, etc., etc.—no wonder so many people are wondering, "What's going on here?"

When it comes to the weather, only two things are certain: The first is that there isn't a thing we can do about it. And the second is that you better be prepared for the worst, then anything less is manageable. If you and your family are prepared for power outages, disruption of water and gas service, and communications interruptions, then you're one step ahead of the bad weather game.

Emergency preparedness experts recommend the following for year-round protection in the event of any emergency, weather-related or otherwise:

- Always keep enough bottled drinking water, non-perishable canned goods and dry foods on-hand to last your family for 3-days in

the event of utility service interruption.

- If you have a charcoal or propane gas grill, never bring it into your living quarters for cooking or heating. These devices give-off carbon monoxide and can cause serious illness and even death.

- Keep a battery-powered radio, several flashlights, and plenty of fresh batteries on-hand in places where every family member can find them easily.

- If you own a cellular phone, make certain that you know where to find the adapter that will allow you to charge your phone's battery using your automobile's engine. If you don't have a car-power-adapter (which plugs into the cigarette lighter), get one.

- Avoid using candles, kerosene lanterns or other light sources that represent a significant fire hazard at a time when emergency response resources will be hard pressed to keep up with public demands for assistance.

- Remember that storms of all types are apt to "knock-down" live power lines. If you see any downed electric wires, always assume they are "hot" and stay away from them. ❖



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