



Fire,  
Security,  
Electronic  
Surveillance

"QUALITY AND PEACE OF MIND SINCE 1969"

(410) 766-8336

# THE ADVISOR

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

**Post Office Box 159 • Pasadena, MD 21123-0159 • [www.okaasco.com](http://www.okaasco.com)**

## Reduce False Alarms With Pet-Friendly Detectors

While you may think of your pet as one of the family, he or she will appear as an intruder to many motion sensors. This causes the system to initiate an alarm call—which turns out to be a false alarm—because the intruder is your big-brown-eyed-pal who's sitting in the corner wondering what all the excitement is about. Unfortunately, families with large pets often stop arming their systems to avoid false alarms.

Today, there is a new breed of sensor technology that is pet smart. These modern sensors incorporate sophisticated signal analysis, ASICs (application specific integrated chips), and specially designed lenses. This allows these new generation units to avoid small, horizontal targets while still reacting to large vertical thermal sources that enter the sensor's field of view.

Properly installed in areas where your pet is free to roam, sensors that use a combination of advanced signal processing, pulse count technology, and/or dual

or pet sensitive lenses can help to eliminate many false alarms caused by a pet. No technology is entirely foolproof—pets that enter the sensor's field of view at close range, or take a vertical path through the sensor's field of view by climbing, may register as an intruder. The newest generation of pet avoidance sensors can greatly increase a pet's invisibility and mobility within the home while allowing the family to maintain their system's alarm status—and their peace of mind.

If you're hesitant about arming your security system because of false alarms caused by a family pet—or if you'd like to increase your pet's mobility within the home when your system is armed—we'd be pleased to explain how the latest generation of pet avoidance sensors can accomplish both of these goals. Feel free to contact us for details and a no-obligation analysis of your home's pet-sensitive protection needs. ❖

**SECURITY SYSTEM SAFETY**

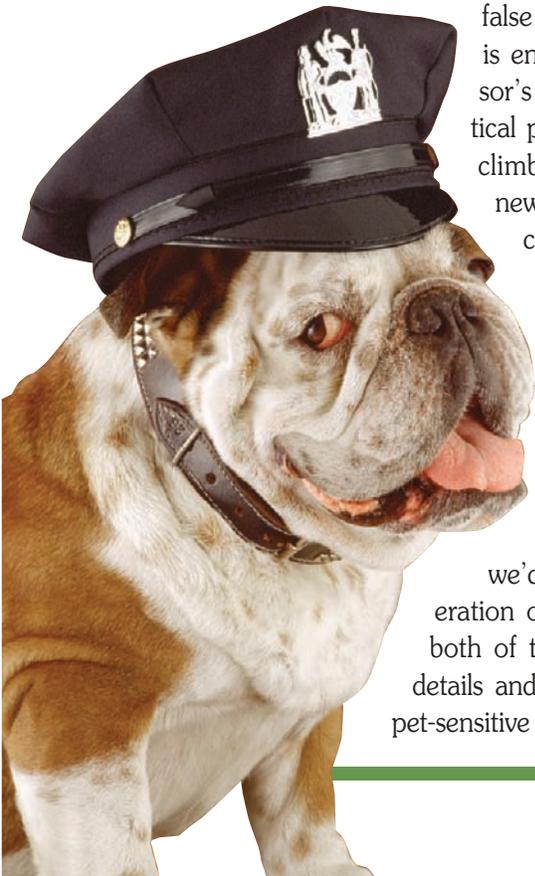
A substantial number of home owners simply turn their security system off for long periods of time to prevent the possibility of triggering false alarms. Needless to say, this is a dangerous way to eliminate a problem.

False alarms are always a serious problem. If you've been having trouble with false alarms—or, if you've become one of those customers who just shuts down your system for extended periods—please, call us and have your system checked to see if your equipment needs adjusting and/or upgrading.

The solution may be as easy as a review of the arming and disarming procedures with those family members who only use the system once in a while. In any case, please help us help you resolve any problems you may be having with false alarms. ❖

### What's Inside:

- ◆ Electrical Safety
- ◆ Hazard Reduction In Your Home's Danger Zones
- ◆ A Little Light On The Subject
- ◆ Community Security





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## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Knowing your way around your home's electrical system can greatly increase your sense of safety. If you haven't done so already, learn which circuit breakers (or fuses) control the various light circuits, outlets and high energy appliances in your home. Identify each of the circuits on the main control panel with a name tag so that you can quickly spot trouble, or disconnect a circuit when necessary.

High energy appliances like refrigerators, electric stoves and microwave ovens need separate outlets to insure safe and efficient operation. Limit the number of appliances you plug into any one outlet so you don't overload the circuit.

Whenever you need to clean or repair an electrical appliance—including prying that piece of toast out of the toaster—always unplug the appliance first, or shut down the circuit at the main control panel. Also, be sure to dry your hands thoroughly before you touch any part of anything that's plugged in—including the cord. Make sure the floor beneath you is dry.

Periodically, you should inspect the cords on all of your electrical devices for wear or other damage. Also, if your vacuum cleaner has a beater-bar or power-head, always use caution when vacuuming near floor lamp and extension cords. Some vacuum units are powerful enough to chew through the cord's plastic sheath and expose the wires which could immediately create a shock or fire hazard.

For many of us, electricity is the magic genie that brings comfort and convenience to our lives. Taking a little time to make sure that the genie is safely contained and not overloaded can help prevent the kind of surprise that no one wishes for. ❖



## Hazard Reduction In Your Home's Danger Zones

Experts estimate that one out of every 40 citizens in North America is injured at home every year by some type of household mishap. And, when you consider the number of "major dangers" that surround us in our homes, it's amazing that the numbers aren't much higher—and, injuries aren't more serious.

Contrary to popular belief, accidents don't just happen. According to safety experts, there's no such thing as a random household accident—there are only incidents of preventable household injuries.

Elderly people and young children are especially likely to be injured at home—not just because of their physical limitations, or lack of knowledge about what is dangerous—but, rather, because home is where they spend most of their time. Knowing the danger spots, and fixing common hazards, can make everyone in the family safer.

Here are a few of the most common hazards:

- In the Kitchen: Mop-up spills promptly. Use knives and other sharp objects carefully, and only for the uses they were intended. Never leave pots unattended. Don't lean over a hot pot or pan, steam and/or splattering fat can cause serious burns.
- On the stairs: Make sure stairways are well-lit and free of clutter—and never run up or down the stairs.
- In the bathroom: Never leave a baby or toddler alone in a tub—not even for just a moment. Medicine cabinets and storage areas for bathroom cleansers should be protected by childproof locks. Safety grab bars and non-slip tape in bathtubs and shower stalls help to protect everyone at any age—no one is immune from slipping!
- In every room in your home: Look for "pull-down" hazards like over-loaded closet shelves, top-heavy book-cases or file-drawers.

A little common sense, a few moments to look around for potential hazards, and just a second or two to set things right, and you and your family can help safety-proof your home against many of the most common causes of household injuries. ❖



# A Little Light On The Subject

Need a new flashlight? Choosing one isn't nearly as simple as it used to be. Here's a quick look at some of the pros and cons and which features make the most sense.

**Bulbs:** Standard filament bulbs give-off the lowest light levels. Fluorescent bulbs give-off more light and are very energy-efficient, making them best suited for lighting large areas for long periods of time. Halogen and Krypton bulbs give-off the brightest light available.

**Batteries:** Standard economy batteries provide the shortest and least reliable power. Alkaline batteries provide the best cost value. Rechargeable batteries tend to have shorter duration than alkalines, but can be replenished. You may want to consider a rechargeable flashlight that is always at full power if you keep it plugged into a socket.

**Features:** Water-resistance is perhaps the most valuable feature to look for since it will help minimize internal corrosion and help the flashlight last longer. Rugged-construction and a shatter-proof lens are also important to help the flashlight survive life's little oops-bang-crashes. Depending on its intended use, floatability, flexibility, and the ability to be used as a flashlight, lantern or spot light should also be evaluated.

**Storage:** You'll need a flashlight when something goes wrong. So, the phrase "a place for everything and everything in its place" is especially appropriate for your flashlight. That way, everyone will know where to find it, if and when it's needed. ❖



We're all aware of the long-term changes to the concept of *neighborhoods*. The intimate, lifetime resident neighborhoods that our grandparents knew have been replaced by highly transient communities where people seek more and more privacy, and often share little more than a *nodding-acquaintanceship* with their neighbors.

This lifestyle creates a certain lack of concern for things going on outside our own property boundaries. In turn, this has created the perfect environment for criminals who rely on *indifference* to enhance their opportunities to commit crimes without detection or interference.

Neighborhood Watch programs involve the joint efforts of your local law enforcement authorities, your neighbors and you. The purpose of these community-based programs is to enhance neighborhood security, to heighten the community's power of observation, and to encourage the notion of *neighbors looking out for each other* in a spirit of mutual concern and assistance. That's the stated objective. In actuality, Neighborhood Watch programs accomplish much more.

Neighborhood Watch programs bring people together in much the same way town meetings did long ago. Faces and names begin to take on personalities, casual greetings begin to be replaced with friendly conversations, and the whole process sets up a new level of caring and concern for each other's safety and well-being. That in turn makes the whole community less vulnerable to crime because you and your neighbors are truly *watching out* for each other.

If your community doesn't have a security plan, Block Watch or Neighborhood Watch program, this might be the perfect time to discuss starting one with your friends and neighbors. It's the type of community involvement that brings about good things for everyone. ❖

## COMMUNITY SECURITY



Dear Valued Customer,  
Welcome to our Winter 2012–2013 newsletter. With frosty weather approaching, and the threat of winter storms, it is time to secure your home and property from the elements. Take a moment to check that all windows and doors are locked and secure for the Winter season.

As the reliability issues of telephone technology change, we want you to know that there are cellular back up options for your security system. Please call Ronnie, (410) 766-8336 ext. 21 for the products available in your area.

**TECH TIP:** If you see a yellow trouble light on your touchpad, please be sure to call our office. It is very important to investigate all trouble conditions. The yellow light is an indicator that there is a circumstance that needs attention.

Also, please remember to test your alarm system.

All of us at AASCO wish you a very Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

## Get The Latest Security Advantage For Your Security System With Back-up Cellular Monitoring

Please call for details

# 410-766-8336



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## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM WINTER'S WORST

“Frost-nip” is a weather-related condition that is much more common than frostbite. Frost-nip is a superficial cousin to frostbite and occurs when the skin tries to restrict heat loss by constricting small blood vessels, usually in the face, ears and fingertips. It is characterized by loss of sensation and blistering. When rewarmed, the skin may swell, turn red and itch—but, no permanent damage results. Frostbite, on the other hand, is much more serious. It involves deeper layers of the skin which can be irreversibly damaged.

Your best protection against both frost-nip and frostbite is to take steps to preserve your body heat. More than half of your body heat can escape when your head is uncovered. It's best to wear a hat that covers your entire head, including your ears and forehead.

If you're traveling to or through severe weather and your car gets stuck or breaks-down, remember to stay with your vehicle. It's much easier to conserve your energy and body heat inside your car. ❖