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# 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)**

## SHELTERING-IN-PLACE IN AN EMERGENCY



### What's Inside:

- ◆ Do You Smell Natural Gas?
- ◆ Privacy Protection In The Electronic Age
- ◆ How Your Mood Affects Your Vulnerability
- ◆ Marking Your Personal Possessions

This is a new phrase that applies to certain emergency situations where you may be asked by authorities to shelter-in-place. This involves staying inside your home, inside your place of employment, inside your school, or wherever you may be at the time the notice is given.

Sheltering-in-place is a recommendation that has been developed for use in circumstances where venturing outside may expose citizens to harmful substances that have been dispersed into outside air as the result of an accident or terrorist attack.

If authorities issue a shelter-in-place alert, you should not attempt to go home, nor pick up your spouse at work or your child at school unless advised that it is safe to do so. If you are in your vehicle when the alert is issued, you should close all windows, turn off the vehicle's

heating/cooling system. As soon as it is safe to do so, you should exit your vehicle and go inside the nearest building.

In the event that you are exposed to hazardous materials and are unable to seek medical assistance, immediately remove all clothing, place it in a plastic bag and seal it. Then, shower using a mild cleansing lotion to wash all exposed skin surfaces.

Additional recommendations from homeland security experts are that, if at all possible, avoid extended and/or unnecessary use of both your landline and/or cellular telephones. Also, do not call 911 operators unless it is to report a real emergency requiring fire, police or medical response personnel. Listen to your radio or television for rumor control telephone numbers that will be provided for questions and information. ❖



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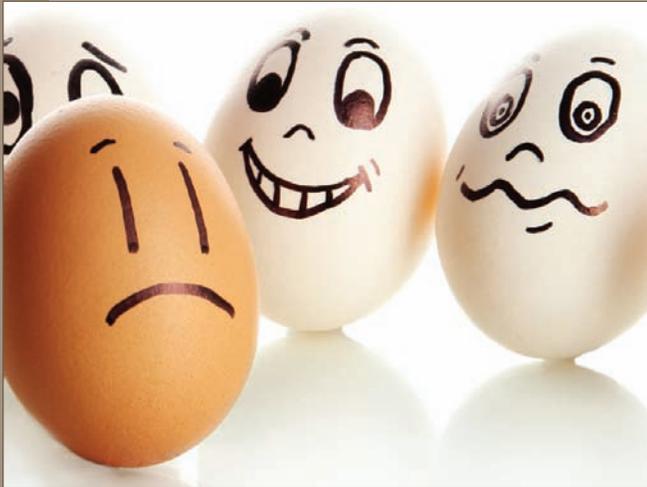
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*A Quarterly Security Guide for the Clients and Friends of A.A.S.C.O.*

## Do You Smell Natural Gas?



Natural gas has a distinctive odor that everyone in your home should learn to recognize. Even an occasional "whiff" of natural gas in your kitchen, laundry or furnace area should be cause for immediate concern.

The characteristic scent of natural gas is a man-made addition that is intended to help protect consumers from fire and explosion hazards. Here are some important considerations to know in the event someone smells even a whiff of natural gas:

- Don't cause a spark or ignite a flame or match! If you're smoking a cigarette, extinguish it immediately. If you're in the dark, do not turn on the lights because the electrical switch may cause a spark.
- Call for help immediately. Your local gas company has emergency repair personnel on call 24 hours a day to repair suspected gas leaks. Call them immediately, no matter how faint the smell of gas may be.
- Get outside! If the odor of gas is strong, leave your home immediately. Don't attempt to ventilate the house by opening windows and don't use your own phone. Call the gas company's emergency line from a remote location.
- Stay outside! Don't re-enter your home until after a gas company representative assesses the situation and gives you a clear indication that it's safe to return to your home. ❖

## PRIVACY PROTECTION IN THE ELECTRONIC AGE

Personal privacy in the global village is a topic of major concern for all of us. With current Internet technology, personal data that was once relatively inaccessible may now be only a few keystrokes away.

With just your name and address, virtually anyone who wants to can find out the names and ages of your spouse and children, what kind of car you drive, the value of your home, what organizations you belong to, where you invest your money, etc. Still others can gain access to your employment, medical, prescription and credit histories. In short, personal privacy as it relates to information about you is quickly vanishing.

Every time you use a bank ATM, the time, date and your location is recorded. Everything you charge with a credit card is in a database that police, among others, have access to. Grocery stores offering club cards can use their scanner records to track what you purchase. Sweepstakes and online transactions are gold mines for tele-

marketers of all sorts.

What steps can you take to preserve your privacy? Here are just a few ways to avoid leaving traceable footprints in your wake. The less you buy with credit cards the fewer details anyone has about your buying habits. Pay with cash whenever possible. Resist giving out your Social Security number except for Social Security related reasons—many organizations want to use it as your ID number, which makes your interests and associations very accessible.

Begin saying, "No, thank you!" to telemarketers as you hang-up the phone—every time they successfully pitch you they sell your name to other phone-sharks who are eager to join the feeding frenzy. The same holds true for returning Warranty Cards on low value items and entering sweepstakes—you're simply throwing your name into the hot prospect hat for list buyers.

Absolute personal data privacy is no longer possible, but these simple steps can help you control your public record footprints. ❖



# HOW YOUR MOOD AFFECTS YOUR VULNERABILITY

You already know that you work better when you're in a good mood. But, you probably haven't considered the notion that projecting a calm, positive outlook helps to protect you from crime when you're out and about on city streets.

In one study, law enforcement officials interviewed convicted muggers and asked them to select a prospective victim from a group of random photographs taken of people walking down the street. Most often, they chose someone who seemed preoccupied, dejected and/or not alert to their surroundings—explaining that such a victim offered a greater opportunity for a surprise attack, and a lower probability of resistance.

Other studies have also supported the theory that people who are angry or depressed are more vulnerable. People who are in a bad mood are:

- More likely to take chances—like cutting through an alley.
- Less alert to what is going on around them.
- More likely to skip ordinary security measures.
- More likely to appear weak or vulnerable looking.
- More likely to provoke others with antagonistic remarks.
- More likely to drink to excess.

It's not just criminals you need to be careful of. Ordinary citizens who are angry may become violent at the slightest provocation. One such man was arrested after he violently attacked someone who wouldn't move their automobile.

So, what are the rules these days? First, whenever possible, remove yourself from any hostile situation, whether it's with a family member, a friend or a stranger. Excusing yourself because you feel ill can take you away from danger. When confronted with a robber, try to stay calm and be polite. Violence increases when you act belligerent or sound antagonistic.

If you must go out when you're upset, remember that you may be at greater risk—but, if you make a serious effort to put on a happy face for safety's sake, maybe you'll be lucky enough for your mood to actually take a turn for the better! ❖



## MARKING YOUR



## Personal Possessions

One of the most basic fundamentals of thwarting criminals who commit burglaries is property marking. The process of property marking is very simple, yet few people actually take the time to do it. All you need is an inexpensive engraving tool, which can be purchased for between \$19-\$25 at most hardware stores. Then, you simply decide on your own personal ID coding system. You can use any number, name or combination of numbers and letters you like—it's just that easy.

Using the engraver, simply mark those things that are the most common targets of thieves—HDTVs, I-phones, stereos, tablets, cameras, firearms, computer components, etc.—with your personal ID code. Then, in the event of a theft, your ID will aid law enforcement officials with property identification and criminal prosecution.

You should keep a list of all of your valuable possessions in a safety deposit box. This will help serve as an aid in determining loss in the event of a theft or fire. You can also create a video to make a visual inventory of every room in your home with a commentary about your valuable possessions as you record them. This video should also be kept in a safe place and updated periodically.

Property marking can be an easy spare time project for you—or, a “fun” project for you and your children. But most important, it's a simple technique to help law enforcement officials retrieve your property and prosecute the criminals who stole it. ❖

Dear Valued Customer,

Welcome to our fall 2014 newsletter. With cooler weather approaching, it is time to secure your home and businesses against the elements, both natural and criminal. Be sure to secure your home and businesses against intrusion, both natural and criminal. As we prepare for the heavily scheduled fall, we sometimes overlook basic security. Be sure to lock your windows and doors, and arm your security system each time you leave your home, and at the end of your business day.

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 give Ronnie a call at (410) 766-8336 ex. 21 for the products available in your area.

**TECH TIP:** Our cellular communicator can allow you to terminate your land line and still have central station monitoring.

Also, please remember to test your system.

Sincerely,

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

Please call for details  
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## Avoid Becoming A Victim Of "Rude-Rage"

It's a new fact of life: In our fast-paced world, people are behaving badly. It happens hundreds of times a day—normally "nice" people tossing all sense of common courtesy out the window and behaving rudely, and sometimes flying into a violent rage.

Whether it's people in a hurry, pushing ahead of others. People irritated because lines don't move fast enough. People on the edge, with their hands on the wheel of a couple thousand pounds of lethal-horsepower and heavy metal, the fact is that it's a dangerous place out there.

How can you and your family avoid the hazards of rude-rage? The first rule is, don't become an unwitting perpetrator. Try to keep your "cool" in lines, in traffic, in face-to-face confrontations with sales clerks that have more "attitude" than a stepped-on snake. Try to maintain an overview of life as a whole—which is far too short to waste time and emotional energy on trivial spats that amount to little or nothing in the long run.

If you're the focus of someone else's assault, try to diffuse the situation with a kind word or a smile. If that fails, get away from the confrontational person as quickly as possible. Never respond with a rude word, or a rude gesture, as an unexpected confrontation can quickly escalate to a potentially dangerous incident. ❖

