



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.*

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Burglars Are "Visual"—So Give Them Something To "See"

Burglars are opportunistic and are always on the "lookout" for easy targets. The best way to protect your possessions is to make sure what a would-be burglar "sees" at your home are signals that he or she should look somewhere else.

Window decals and yard signs. Displaying our window decals and yard signs is one of the best ways to discourage would-be criminals. They know it simply isn't worth the risk of tripping an alarm trying to gain entry into your home.

Lock up. Over half of all burglaries occur through unlocked doors and windows. Most burglaries occur between 10 am and 3 pm—so "lock up" and arm your system even if you're just running out for a quick errand.

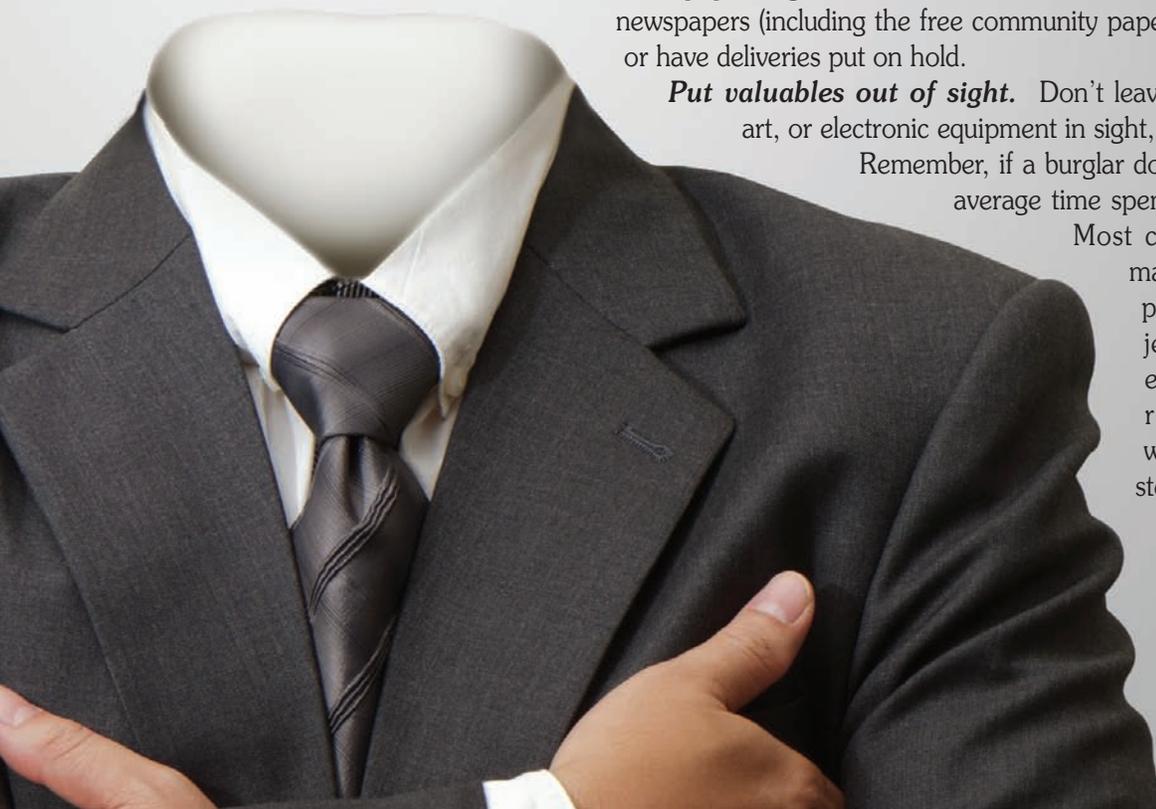
Fill up the driveway. If you have two vehicles, leave one in the driveway. If you're away on a trip or vacation, ask a neighbor to park there.

Give your house an "occupied" look. Even if you're away, leave drapes and shades the way you normally leave them. Put lights on automatic timers to simulate normal patterns. An overstuffed mailbox and yellowing newspapers signal that no one is home—have someone pick up your mail and newspapers (including the free community papers that get tossed on your yard), or have deliveries put on hold.

Put valuables out of sight. Don't leave valuables such as jewelry, fine art, or electronic equipment in sight, close to windows.

Remember, if a burglar does gain entry to your home, the average time spent inside is just 8 to 12 minutes.

Most criminals head straight for the master bedroom, where most people keep their valuables. Cash, jewelry, guns, silver, electronic equipment and other easily carried and easily sold items are what they are after. The more steps you take to make a would-be burglar "see" your home as more trouble than it's worth, the less likely you will be a victim. ❖





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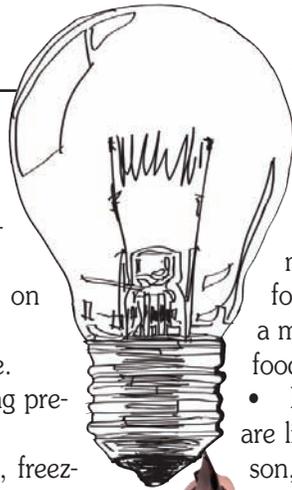
Storm Warnings

As we move into that time of year when the weather can have a dramatic impact on our lives, and cause major power interruptions, it's good to review the ways that you can minimize the inconvenience and maximize safety for you and your family.

- Keep a battery-powered radio and a flashlight on hand where you can find them in the dark.
- Keep a plentiful supply of fresh batteries available.

In the event of a power outage, take the following precautionary measures:

- Turn off major appliances, such as refrigerators, freezers, computers, air conditioners, heat pumps and televisions. If these appliances all begin operating simultaneously after power is restored, your home's fuses could blow or circuit breakers could trip. It is also possible to do damage to your motors if they all start at the same time.



- Fill a tub with water as well as several large pots. A major power outage could affect the municipal water treatment and pumping facility, and taint an entire community's water supply.
- A fully-loaded freezer can keep food cold for 36 to 48 hours if the door remains closed. Covering your freezer with a heavy quilt can help maintain the interior temperatures. Refrigerated foods spoil faster and may only be safe if used within a matter of hours. When in doubt, throw questionable foods away!
- If you see any fallen electrical wires, assume they are live and stay away. Touching a vehicle, fence, person, or water in contact with a downed power line is very dangerous.

Review these tips with all of your family members because being prepared is the best way to stay safe in the aftermath of a storm. ❖

Water Safety Is No Accident

As human beings, we love water. We like to drink it, look at it, hear it, bathe with it, sail on it, and swim in it. Ours is the "blue planet," and we seem fascinated by every shimmery molecule of water we see.

Whether it's at poolside or "by-the-sea," at your favorite lake or in your own bathtub, water safety is something we all need to be mindful of—both for our own safety and the safety of youngsters with us.

RULE NO. ONE—No electrical appliances around or near water. Keep plug-in radios, fans, and other small electrical appliances away from bathtubs, showers, sinks and swimming pools. If you want music, make sure the radio is battery-powered.

RULE NO. TWO—Behavior. Most accidents and injuries in, on and around the water are the result of unsafe conduct. Allow no head-first diving unless you are in an area specifically designated for diving. Ban "horseplay"—wet surfaces are no place for running or wrestling, and can result in serious injury.

RULE NO. THREE—Limit the use of alcohol. Alcohol blocks our natural inhibitions, increases our reaction time, interferes with our ability to sense

fatigue and can cloud our sense of good judgement. All of these are potentially serious if the person affected happens to be operating a powerboat, water skiing, or swimming a little too long, or too far from shore.

RULE NO. FOUR—Think safety. If you're planning a picnic at poolside, don't use glassware and china that could shatter into hundreds of dangerous slivers if accidentally dropped. Rather, make it a rule that only paper plates and cups are allowed anywhere near poolside.

RULE NO. FIVE—Safety Equipment. If you're going out boating, always make certain that there are an adequate number of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) for everyone on board. Make sure that youngsters have their PFDs on, especially if the weather turns rough or it's difficult for you to see them at all times.

Water is our planet's "life's-blood" so to speak, and a source of endless fun and fascination. Following these simple safety rules can make being in, on, or near the water a safe and satisfying experience for everyone. ❖



Fire Safety Tips

Like the old saying goes, it's better to be safe than sorry. So, here are ten tips for protecting your family and valuables from fire.

1. Inspect your home for fire hazards. Check with your local fire department's fire prevention unit to see if they conduct home inspections. Make certain all combustible items are preferably stored in a shed or garage, or at least three feet from any heat source.

2. Protect your belongings. Except when you actually need them elsewhere, important papers and documents should be stored in a fire-resistant storage unit or safety deposit box. Take photos of your valuables and store them along with written descriptions in a safe place.

3. Regularly schedule "system checks" with us so that you can be assured that both your security system and smoke/fire/gas detection units are in good working order. Change the batteries in any non-system smoke detectors at least twice a year.

4. Plan and practice a fire escape plan with your family. Draw diagrams that map out at least two escape routes from every room. Designate a "meeting place" outside the home where all family members will gather in the event of a fire.

5. If you or a family member smokes cigarettes, make certain that common sense prevails. Smoking is, by far, the leading cause of fatal home fires.

6. Sleep with bedroom doors closed. The majority of fatal home fires happen between midnight and 8:00 am. Closed bedroom doors can prevent suffocating smoke and combustible gases from spreading, and give everyone

more time to escape.

7. Get out fast, and stay out! Focus all of your attention on getting you and your family out alive. Never go back into a burning building to try and save possessions.

8. Feel doors before opening them. Touch the door surface, doorknob and the cracks along the sides of the door. If you feel heat, don't open the door; use your second way out.

9. Crawl low under smoke. Smoke actually causes more deaths than fire. If you must go through a smoke-filled area, crawl on your hands and knees and crawl quickly under the smoke to the exit. Try to stay 18–24 inches above the floor; toxic gases accumulate at floor level!

10. Stop, drop and roll, if your clothing catches fire. Don't run.

Your local fire department can provide more details about fire safety around the home and ways to survive a fire emergency. They'll also gladly give you advice about escape plans and fire extinguishers. ❖



Your security system detects and alerts you to intrusions, attempted intrusions and fire emergencies, and can even provide options. If you are connected to our central monitoring station, you have the additional layer of protection that comes with a 24/7 *direct-connection* to help when you need it—whether that's police or fire.

Your security system also provides you with peace of mind. There is one thing your security system simply cannot do: *differentiate between a real emergency and an accidental false alarm!*

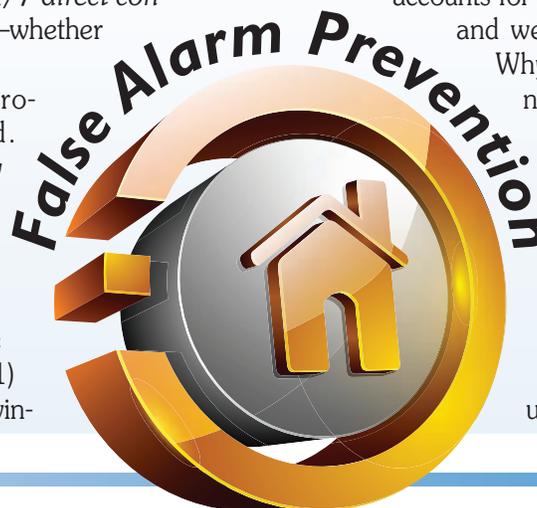
The major causes of false alarms fall into four categories: 1) unlocked or loose doors and/or win-

dows that cause an alarm contact to signal an intrusion when the system is armed; 2) anyone who is unfamiliar with how your system functions; 3) wandering pets; and 4) errors by the keypad or controller user. "User error"

accounts for about 80 percent of all false alarms—and we take that statistic very personally!

Why? Because it could mean that we need to give you and your family more accurate instructions about arming and disarming your system!

If you have any apprehensions about how your system works, don't hesitate to call us to arrange a refresher course for you, your family or your employees about the proper way to arm, disarm and use your system's controls. ❖



Dear Valued Customer,

Welcome to our Spring 2014 newsletter. With warmer weather just around the corner, it's a good time of the year to evaluate your home's safety and security status. When leisure activities shift into high gear, often resulting in more time spent away from home. It's the perfect opportunity to review your security management details.

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 ex. 21 for the products available in your area.

Tech Tip: Please make sure your emergency contact list is up to date. If one of your contacts has changed jobs or moved, they may have a new telephone number. To check your contact list or find out how to make changes, please give us a call.

Also, please remember to test your alarm system.

Sincerely,

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

Please call for details

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This Is A Test



When was the last time you tested your security system? When was the last time your security system had a complete and thorough check-up?

If the answers to these two questions are difficult to recall, then it probably means your system is way overdue for some preventive maintenance.

System testing and inspection are two safeguards that you should initiate on a routine basis to make absolutely certain that your security system is 100 percent at all times. If you already do this, you know the peace of mind it brings.

Like any other complicated system of electrical devices, mechanical anomalies or other normal wear-and-tear

problems can develop. Although they are generally easily corrected, they first have to be detected—otherwise, the integrity of your entire system could be compromised.

Some of the more common problems discovered during routine testing and inspection procedures include: cobwebs and dust obstructing the lenses of motion detectors and smoke detectors which can reduce their effectiveness; blown fuses in control panels that prevent horns or sirens from sounding; frozen contacts and worn-out backup batteries. Another common occurrence is when remodeling projects, or simply the rearranging of furniture, totally or partially blocks the field-of-view of motion detectors, diminishing or eliminating the protection they were meant to provide.

Give yourself, and your family, the maximum level of protection that your system is capable of providing. Perform routine system tests and schedule periodic full system inspections to make certain all sensors and alarms are functioning properly. It's the easiest way there is to know that your home's security system is 100 percent if and when it's ever needed. ❖