



The Dispatch

Vehicle Tracking for Beginners

Monitor Controls, Inc. now gives you the power of mobile tracking at an affordable rate. With U-Traq you can:

- Locate or monitor employees, teens and elderly drivers for enhanced peace of mind
- Manage company vehicles and employees more efficiently
- Monitor unauthorized use of a vehicle
- Receive tracking information on any internet enabled computer or cell phone
- Establish zone alerts (geofences) when a vehicle enters or leaves up to three user-defined areas
- Receive e-mail or text alerts when a vehicle exceeds a user-defined speed limit
- Track up to 1000 vehicles with a single account
- View a 30 day vehicle tracking history
- Find-it-now search locates your vehicle at the click of a button



The small vehicle powered GPS device plugs into the OBD port found on the bottom edge of the

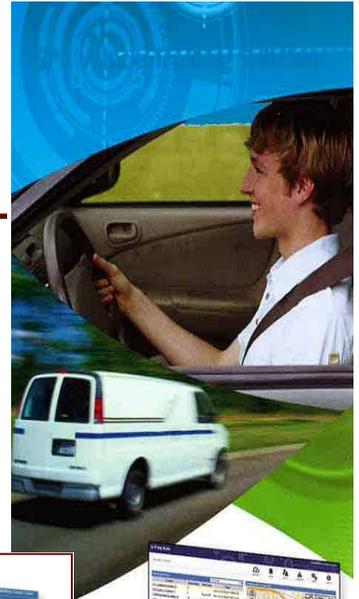
dashboard of most vehicles manufactured since 1996. This eliminates installation challenges found in traditional tracking devices. It can also be

switched between vehicles to provide the ultimate in flexibility.

We were so impressed we began utilizing the service on our own vehicles last year.

Contact our office to discuss how this service can benefit you!

Detailed stats help you track your vehicles on line



Good for the Hood

An extensive study by Rutgers professor of criminal justice, Dr. Lee, proves that alarm systems not only protect homes without displacing burglars to nearby houses but, in fact, also provide protection for houses in close proximity. So your alarm is good for the neighborhood!



The 350+ page study, conducted over a two-year period, in which Dr. Lee took five years of alarm permit data

and five years of victimization, among many other sources, found an indisputable correlation between an increase in registered (permitted) residential burglar alarm systems and a decrease during the five-year period of more than 40 percent in residential burglaries.

The study also concluded that the deterrent effect of alarms is felt in the community at large. "Neighborhoods in

Contract Renewals

We are currently going through our records and sending out new monitoring agreements. With a thirty day self-renewing contract it is imperative to update these every few years to inform you of any changes in the law or alarm industry practices. When you receive one, please sign and return it. Thank you!

Est. 1970

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Security • Fire • Video • Access Control

Platinum Protection

There are a growing number of car thefts today, including stealing items from cars, such as airbags and catalytic converters. Airbags are removed and sold to put in cars with deployed airbags leaving you unprotected. Some thieves cover up their theft by replacing your undeployed airbag with a deployed airbag, or sometimes rags or other items that seem as though the airbag is still intact.

Also, since the price of platinum has skyrocketed, catalytic converters are being stolen straight out of cars in parking lots since they contain 3-4 grams of platinum. Catalytic converters can be removed from cars in a matter of minutes, without actually having to break into the car, and taken apart to recycle

the platinum inside. The gain is approximately \$150 per converter. However, the loss is much more for the car owner, including the cost of purchasing a new catalytic converter, which starts at about \$450 for a small car.



Vehicles that are parked in large lots for a prolonged period of time are at a higher risk. According to Mike Ekiss, Associate Vice President of Farm/Agribusiness and Loss Control for Nationwide, "Corporate fleets are particularly vulnerable, because thieves can hit multiple vehicles in a single location. And if that happens, it can shut down a business for days."

So what can you do to protect yourself, your automobile, and your parking lot? Well-lit parking areas are always a good idea, but they do

not always deter thieves. Your best option is installing a video surveillance system in your parking lot. Posted signs of video surveillance will deter thieves and, protecting your lot with video surveillance will increase your chances of catching any perpetrator. Please call our office with any further questions as we offer a variety of options for your surveillance needs.



~Source : *Nationwide.com 2010*

~Source: *Coalition Against Insurance Fraud*

Hood (continued from page 1)

which burglar alarms were densely installed have fewer incidents of residential burglaries than the neighborhoods with fewer burglar alarms," the study noted.

The study indicates we now have supporting data about the effectiveness of a residential alarm system when talking to consumers," says John Jennings, chairman of AIREF (the Alarm Industry Research and

Education Foundation). "It also gives us the data to support the idea that law enforcement resources are conserved by the use of residential alarm systems. These are substantial findings for the alarm industry. Whatever we can do to reduce the workload of our law enforcement partners by deterring crime not only helps them but creates a more secure and stable society as a whole."



~Source *Security Sales & Integration*

~Source *Rutgers University*

Cost Savings Could Cost You Your Life!



Fire alarms will not report to the central station if you change to VoIP

Everyone is looking to save money in this economy so it's no surprise that people are choosing "bundle packages" for cable, internet and phone service; however the cost savings may actually cost your life if you don't ask the right questions beforehand.

Sure you can switch to VoIP but *you will need to switch your alarm communications to either IP or Radio*. When you switch your service provider, they test the phone. One would think that they consistently test everything else connected to the line (answering machine, fax, and YES - the alarm). But this is not the case!

When something doesn't work, ask the provider to fix the problem, or you'll be paying

us for a service call and possibly an upgrade. Leaving your alarm system in non-working order is unacceptable to us and it should be unacceptable to you. *Alarms cannot report over VoIP!* This means that a bit of cost savings could cost your life. If you have a fire alarm system you should be very cautious and ask all the right questions before changing your service provider or it may cost more than you thought.

~Source *E-News by Ken Kirschenbaum, Esq.*

Is Your Fire Alarm System Performing?

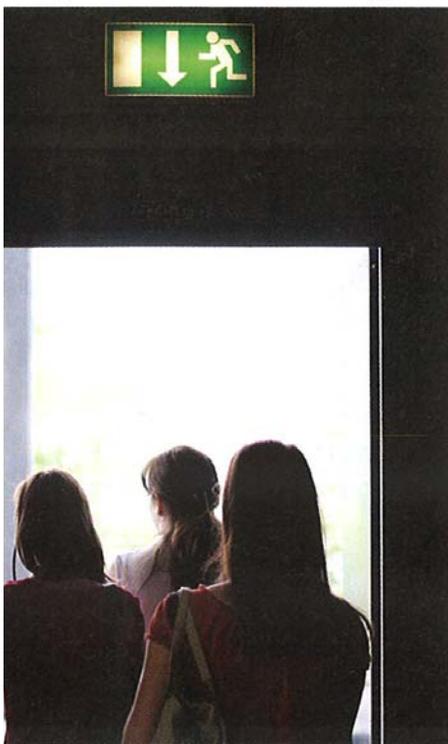
Make sure your fire alarm system is heard—and obeyed—by building occupants.

As a result of recent terrorist incidents, school shootings, and natural disasters, the role of a building's fire alarm system has expanded. In addition to fire emergencies, these systems are becoming emergency communication systems that also provide information during terrorist incidents, hazardous materials incidents, and natural disasters.

Although these systems play an important role in life safety, according to the Society of Fire Protection Engineers' online magazine, studies have shown that people often ignore a fire alarm signal because:

- Occupants fail to recognize the signal.
- Occupants are unaware of the proper response.
- Nuisance alarms decrease system credibility.

Voice alarm systems provide voice messages to building occupants that clearly state the problem and give specific instructions regarding evacuation routes or areas of refuge.



- The occupants fail to hear the signal.

To ensure that your fire alarm system is capable of performing its intended function, ask yourself ...

"Is the best type of fire detection installed and placed properly?"

When properly selected and placed, fire detectors can provide early warning that a fire emergency has occurred. The proper selection and placement of automatic fire detection equipment is dependent on the expected fire signatures (heat, smoke, or radiant heat), ambient/environmental conditions, and the ability to adequately maintain the individual fire detectors. Furthermore, proper application of fire detection equipment will help avoid unwanted alarms and increase the credibility of the fire alarm system.

"Is occupant notification provided through voice communications?"

During a building emergency, occupants need information. They want to know:

1. What the problem is.
2. What they need to do.
3. How they need to do it.

As opposed to generating a standard evacuation signal, voice alarm systems have speakers that provide voice messages. Because voice alarm systems can clearly state the problem and give specific instructions to the building occupants about how to evacuate, people are more likely to respond. Moreover, these systems can also instruct occupants to relocate to areas of refuge when complete building evacuation isn't feasible.

"Can all building occupants hear and understand the evacuation signal or messages?"

When audible notification is provided by traditional audible appliances

(horns or bells), it's imperative that everyone in the building can hear the evacuation signal. Audibility is measured by taking sound pressure level measurements during system testing. Additionally, if the system transmits a voice message, sufficient audibility doesn't guarantee intelligibility. If a voice alarm system is installed, speakers must be distributed so people can understand the voice messages.

"Does my building's emergency plan have procedures for responding to the fire alarm system?"

Every building's emergency plan should have provisions for emergency evacuations and exit drills. This will give the building occupants the opportunity to become familiar with the building's fire alarm notification signal and better understand the building's evacuation plan.

"Who can help me determine if a fire alarm system is capable of performing its intended function?"

When properly designed, installed, tested, and maintained, fire alarm systems can reliably detect fires and adequately trigger occupant response. Fire protection engineers understand the science and the latest technologies used to protect people, property, and the environment from fire. As such, a fire protection engineer can assist with evaluating an existing fire alarm system to determine if the system needs to be upgraded or replaced. A fire protection engineer can also develop maintenance and testing programs for fire protection systems. ■

~Source Buildings May 2010

~Source Society of Fire
Protection Engineers

Monitor Controls CFO Featured in National Publication

Security • Fire • Video • Access Control

Monitor Controls, Inc.'s Chief Financial Officer, Deborah Sokol, was recently featured in an article in *Security System News*. The article, entitled, "20 Under 40: Young and the Restless", includes profiles on the top 20 alarm professionals under 40. The article discusses the new and innovative ideas that young professionals bring to the security industry. Sokol, will be celebrating her 24th anniversary in September with Monitor Controls, Inc., "It's an honor to have been chosen. I'm lucky they were able to eke me in there" laughs Sokol who turned 40 at the end of August. All of us at Monitor Controls, Inc. are extremely proud of her accomplishments, hard work and dedication.

~Source : Security System News



Deborah Sokol

Deborah Sokol, 39

CFO, Monitor Controls Inc.

Monitor Controls was started by Deborah Sokol's family "in 1970 in the basement of my house. It's always been a part of me," she says. When she was in high school, she wanted to make money and was working three jobs simultaneously. "I carried that for six to nine months," but it was interfering with school activities. Her father suggested she work in the family business part-time. "I gave it a shot. I was told I wouldn't get any special treatment and I didn't get any, believe me," she says. Sokol worked her way up from data entry position. She liked working and making money, so she continued to work at the business through college: "I managed to take all my classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays and work the rest of the time." Sokol believes that organizations like the YSP (ESA's Young Security Professionals) will help attract more young people to the industry, and believes more, similar efforts can help. She'd like "to be remembered as somebody who was honest, had integrity and who worked hard for everything she has."



Happy Birthday!



To the following team members celebrating anniversaries with Monitor Controls, Inc. this quarter:

John III	09-03
Keith	09-15
Jonathan	09-19
Elaine	09-29
Sandy	10-11
Tracy	11-08
Denise	11-28

John III	28 years
Debbie	24 years
Ray	14 years
Barbara	7 years
Gary	6 years
Chris	5 years
Mia	4 years
Tracy	1 year

We're going GREEN!

We now have the ability to e-mail invoices and statements to you directly through our accounting software. We are also able to e-mail breaking news and reminders about impending inspections due at your location(s). Hundreds have already signed up over the last several months but we need your help with our efforts to not only save the planet but to keep our overhead expenses to a minimum. Please cut out and return this form to our office. Thank you for your help!

Name: _____

Account #: _____

E-mail invoices and statements to:

_____@_____

E-mail inspection reminders to:

_____@_____

E-mail breaking news to:

_____@_____

We Accept:

