



**Monitor
CONTROLS, INC.**

178-180 Center Street
Wallingford, CT 06492

The Dispatch

Since When is a Penny Worth More Than a Penny?

Earlier this summer, a suspected copper thief was nearly electrocuted when he tried to cut a copper grounding cable at a power station. It wasn't the first time that someone had tried walking away with a valuable, but deadly, utility line. People have been killed doing this all over the country.

Scrap metal yards, construction sites and external air conditioning units are among the most common targets for copper thieves, who sometimes cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage to harvest relatively small amounts of the metal.



Copper urns worth several thousand dollars from gravesites have even been targeted in Georgia. In California thieves stripped copper pipes from the roof of a shopping center, killing power and air conditioning to fifteen businesses.

Copper theft is a big problem and it won't disappear any time soon as prices for the common metal remain at historic highs. Thieves can sometimes net \$100 to \$200 for copper stolen from an air conditioning unit. They can get thousands of dollars from large spools of copper wire, such as those used by utility companies. Scrap-metal boxes containing copper and

other metals are constantly emptied by thieves.

Copper plumbing and electrical wire have been stolen from construction sites of homes and businesses. In some cases, thieves have walked into open, half-finished buildings and stripped them bare of valuable metals.

Home builders are especially targeted because of the exposed copper on site. Thieves scout out places such as construction sites during the day and return at night to rip them off because not everything can be stored in a secured facility. As material is staged for a project, it becomes vulnerable.

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Did You Know?

- ◆ According to David J. Engebretson of Slayton Solutions, Ltd. in Chicago, Illinois, who recently provided a webinar for some of our technical staff in order to provide some training on VoIP, **only 3-4% of all alarm systems in the United States have a daily test report timer?**
- ◆ **Monitor Controls, Inc. programs all of our central station monitored accounts with at least a daily test report timer.** Others may test more frequently according to local codes requirements or the client's individual demands.

Fire Hides in Attic for Weeks Before Igniting

A 66 year old California man and five members of his family were ushered to safety in the wee hours of the morning when a newspaper manager was driving passed his home and noticed gray smoke rising from the roof. The homeowner, who had eight smoke detectors in the house was not alerted because he failed to have any installed in his attic, where the fire began.

Local officials estimate that 30-50% of house fires involve attics and that most are caused by faulty or exposed electrical wiring in equipment such as cooling and heating units. They added that **fires can smolder in attic insulation for days and even weeks before fully igniting.** Moral: Install smoke detectors as required by code and have a licensed contractor/electrician perform an annual inspection on any type of electrical equipment installed in your attic or home in general.

The Fresno Bee

We Proudly Accept →



Recall Notice

Editor's Note: While Monitor Controls, Inc. does not sell, or install any of the following items described in this particular article we feel it is important life safety information that should be passed along. Perhaps your neighbor, colleague or office building has one of these detectors. With the information provided you can now advise those affected of the potential danger involved with NOT replacing these detectors or upgrading them. If you have any further questions feel free to contact us.

been recalled because they can experience reduced sensitivity in environments suffering from high humidity and temperature. Detectors with reduced sensitivity can experience delays in sensing



smoke from a fire, or miss a valid smoke signature altogether.

Model numbers include the following:

4 0 9 8 - 9 6 0 1 4 0 9 8 - 96854098-9688C

4 0 9 8 - 9 6 0 1 C 4 0 9 8 - 9685C430696

4 0 9 8 - 9 6 0 1 E A 4 0 9 8 - 9686T360-9002

4 0 9 8 - 9 6 0 2 4 0 9 8 - 9686C430559

4 0 9 8 - 9 6 0 2 C 4 0 9 8 - 9687430695

4 0 9 8 - 9 6 0 5 4 0 9 8 - 9688ADT-3201

T360-9935430562ADT-3202

T360-9936430560ADT-3204

T360-9001T360-9003ADT-3205

Source: Security News & Integration

Eight Tyco Fire & Security brand smoke detector models, manufactured by Solectron Technology Co. of Sizhou, China, have

Copper

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Some of the theft of copper has been linked to company employees with access to the material in their jobs.

But companies that once ignored such thefts are no longer doing so, and they're working closer with scrap yards to recover stolen materials.



Copper prices are at historic highs.

Copper prices have fallen from their peak a few months ago, when some recyclers paid more than \$3 a pound. Now, they're paying between \$2.50 and \$2.75, depending on the grade of copper.

Source: Security Products

Bad Bad Battery

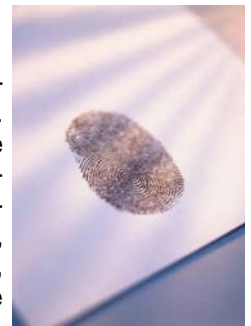
For those clients who have not yet upgraded to Monitor Controls, Inc. for their fire safety needs, please note that if you are using First Alert BRK Brand 4120B or 4120SB manufactured prior to October of 2000 are not compatible with Duracell™ batteries. This startling news comes from WKMG in Orlando, Florida. The only batteries that will work safely with these detectors are Eveready™ and Energizer™ 9V batteries. The wrong battery, as reported on the news could burst, expand or explode. This information is very important because fire alarms are credited with reducing home fire deaths by 50%.

Not comfortable with battery operated smokes? Contact our office for a free fire survey and proposal for upgrading to proven hard wired technology.

Biometrics 101

Biometrics are automated methods of recognizing a person based on a physiological or behavioral characteristic. Among the features measured are face, fingerprints, hand geometry, handwriting, iris, retinal, vein, and voice. Biometric technologies are becoming the foundation of an extensive array of highly secure identification and personal verification solutions. As the level of security breaches and transaction fraud increases, the need for highly secure identification and personal verification technologies is becoming apparent.

Biometric-based solutions are able to provide for confidential financial transactions and personal data privacy. The need for biometrics can be found in federal, state and local governments, in the military, and in commercial applications. Enterprise-wide network security infrastructures, government IDs, secure electronic banking, investing and other financial transactions, retail sales, law enforcement, and health and social services are already benefiting from these technologies.



Biometric-based authentication applications include workstation, network, and domain access, single sign-on, application logon, data protection, remote access to resources, transaction security and Web security. Trust in these electronic transactions is essential to the healthy growth of the global economy. Utilized alone or integrated with other technologies such as smart cards, encryption keys and digital signatures, biometrics are set to pervade nearly all aspects of the economy and our daily lives. (continued on next page)

Emergency Preparedness

Natural disasters and emergency preparedness have been plastered across our televisions for some time now. But how prepared are YOU...really?

If you were given a short period of time to evacuate your home or were suddenly without power for days on end, could you survive? Let's assume our brave men & women in law enforcement, medical response and firefighters are pre-occupied with disasters of their own. When it comes down to it, like it or not, we may end up with no one to rely on but ourselves.

So what to pack...what to prepare? Well, one company has gone above and beyond the call selling emergency "buckets" for both residential and commercial use. Buckets range in contents based upon the number of people

utilizing it and based upon the number of days one might require use of it.

This particular kit provides supplies to accommodate 30 employees for up to 24 hours. It includes:



◆ **S t o r a g e** bucket that can be used to carry, store and purify

◆ (30) Drinking water pouches, 4oz (5yr shelf life)

◆ (1) 3.5 gallon bucket

◆ (1) Stir stick

◆ (50) Water purification tablets

◆ (10) 2400 Calorie food bars

◆ (30) Thermal blankets

◆ (8) light sticks, 12hr

◆ (1) Emergency Instructions

Supplemental kits can be purchased that contain toilets such as this and



others for emergency 50 person traumas such as this.



For any businesses or home these can be an ideal addition to your Loss Control or Disaster Recovery plan.

If you are interested in any of these items you can purchase them directly from myedwards.com.

Keep an Eye Out!

After much work we have finally completed the design for our website update to include:

- ◆ New colors/layout
- ◆ Interactive quiz
- ◆ New logo/decal recognition
- ◆ Secure contact area
- ◆ Remote video surveillance demonstration
- ◆ Updated testimonials
- ◆ Photos of our staff
- ◆ Industry Facts
- ◆ Updated downloads
- ◆ Updated news articles
- ◆ Partner links

Completion is expected in mid October.

Visit us at www.monitorcontrols.com to see first hand the changes we made to benefit our clients & potential clients.

Biometrics 101

(Continued from page 2)

Utilizing biometrics for personal authentication is becoming convenient and considerably more accurate than current methods (such as the utilization of passwords or PINs). This is because biometrics links the event to a particular individual (a password or token may be used by someone other than the authorized user), is convenient (nothing to carry or remember), accurate (it provides for positive authentication), can provide an audit trail and is becoming socially acceptable and cost effective.

Source: *The Biometrics Consortium*

Did You Know?

A burglary occurs about every 15 seconds in the United States.

Building Update



We're on our way!

The town of Wallingford Planning & Zoning Commission recently approved our application for the construction of our new facility at 4A Research Parkway.

We'll keep you informed as we progress!

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Please remember to contact us when you receive your inspection reminder postcard in the mail. You have your oil changed in your car every 3,000-4,000 miles and it gets to rest when you're sleeping. Your alarm, however, never rests. It's operating 24/7/365. Give it the attention it deserves and let us test & clean it.



John Yusza III	24 years
Deborah Yusza-Sokol	20 years
Stephen Hartt	20 years
Ray Rys, Jr.	10 years
Kamal Wilson	8 years
Paula Snedeker	3 years
Kimberly Asprelli	3 years
Barbara Smith	3 years
Gary Gabbard	2 years
Christopher Scarmana	1 year



John Yusza III	September 3
Paula Snedeker	September 21
Richard Bohannah	September 22
Christopher Reilly	September 25
Elaine Bartholomew	September 29
Sandra Braccioforte	October 11
Ameo Marcantonio	October 16
Sheena Bromell	November 30
Kamal Wilson	November 30

Give the Keys...Give the Code

How many times have the police been dispatched to your home because visitors, contractors or other employees have set off your alarm and did not know what to do?

Consider the following steps to help reduce the chance that you will have a false alarm:

1. Make sure everyone, who has access to your home, such as child care givers, domestic help, extended family, etc., are familiar with your alarm system.



Teach them how to arm the system and make sure they know how much time they have to exit if they are leaving.

If entering the home, ensure they know how to disarm the system and how much time they have to do it before the system alerts your monitoring center

2. Contact your alarm company and assign each person their own personal passcode/password. You can have it removed when it's no longer needed.

3. Educate your guests/employees on your alarm monitoring company's procedures should they set off the alarm accidentally.

4. Teach them how to cancel a false alarm to avoid the imposition of potential fees or fines.



5. Keep your monitoring center's phone number in an easy to find place.

6. If you're going out of town and have a house sitter, make sure they have permission to authorize repairs to your system if it fails.

7. Make sure everyone who has access to your home or business has a valid code to turn on and off your alarm system **as well as** the code or password used to identify themselves to your alarm company

Watch Out for Sticky Fingers

How many sticky fingers are in your office? It may be more than you think. It may also be a reason to watch your step as more business owners invest in video surveillance of their own employees.

While only 1 in 10 workers admits to stealing from their employers, 38 percent of hiring managers reported they have fired employees for office theft says a survey conducted by careerbuilder.com. The survey contained more than 2,200 workers, including 1,000 hiring managers.

Office supplies topped the list of hot loot with 15 percent of hiring managers stating employees were most often caught red-handed with these items. Money came in second at 14 percent and merchandise placed third at 11 percent. Other popular

items include:

- ◆ Co-worker's belongings
- ◆ Computer or phone equipment
- ◆ Office décor (paintings/plants)
- ◆ Coffee packets, tea bags and condiments
- ◆ Toilet paper
- ◆ Band-Aids
- ◆ Faxing or shipping services for personal use

Healthcare, IT and manufacturing had the highest amount of workers own up to engaging in office theft.

Company reprimands for office thievery varied. Although 45 percent of hiring managers said they would automatically terminate someone for stealing from the company, 48 percent said it would depend on the object and situation.