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The Dispatch

What's it Worth to You?

We're all guilty of it. We turn on our lights, our computers and our televisions, we even pick up the phone and turn on the heat without thinking twice about the value of these items. We take them for granted until the day the light switch doesn't work, the computer only hums, our television show is missed, the phone has no dial tone or the temperature in the house (or building) would make a Penguin dance with joy.

It wasn't until last night when I was in bed staring at the ceiling that I noticed my smoke detector has a red light that blinks every ten seconds. I don't remember the last time I noticed the detector. I remember painting the ceiling about three years ago....

Why did I happen to notice this? Well my security system was on my mind. I went to arm it before leaving for work and noticed that the "enter" key was faded and stuck. I know, I know, I work for the company that installed it. The worst part is that I don't bother mailing myself an annual inspection reminder postcard. I figure I'll just have my husband take care of it (he works at Monitor as well). The sad part is that we're both so busy and pre-occupied with work, kids, family and friends that we often neglect the important things...like the alarm.

After all, I don't want to be the one on the evening news explaining how our fire alarm didn't work and why the house burned down. So I made a point to send our service manager an e-mail telling him to schedule one of our techs to perform the annual inspection. I figured it's a good way to see how the technicians handle themselves at client's homes, it relieves my husband of one of his "to-do list" items, and gives me the peace of mind I need before I tuck the kiddies in at night.

It was just then that I had an epiphany. I should write an article for our newsletter telling our clients that they shouldn't take their security system or fire system for granted. Nor should they take for granted their access control or video systems.

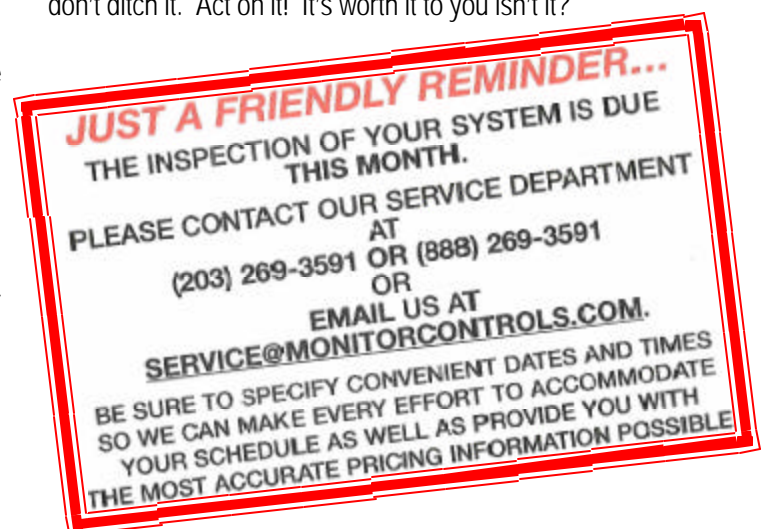
These systems work twenty-four hours per day 365 days per year without a break and all they ask for is for a little attention once a year; to be cleaned, metered and tested thor-

oughly.

Now I have a vehicle that I basically drive to and from work, about six miles total distance, and I can assure you that I give my vehicle the attention it deserves. I take it in for its oil changes, lubes and tune-ups or whatever it is they do when they have it on the lift. The point of the matter is that I give the vehicle more attention than the alarm. Why? Is it because I see it every day? Well I see the alarm every day too. Is it because if I don't keep the vehicle running well it could endanger my life and the life of my family? Well same holds true for the fire alarm in my house. If it's not operating and we have a fire, what will wake us from our deep sleep to advise us to "leave immediately!"?

Whatever the reason is I am resolving to end alarm neglect! I will start small in my home, perhaps branch out to the community and to our clients encouraging them to climb on board my platform and hear the cries of all alarms nationwide screaming for attention, begging for a little consideration.

Now it is understandable that we all have holiday bills to pay, but tax return season is soon approaching, so put aside a little bit to have your annual inspection performed. It will help ensure your peace of mind and perhaps allow you to sleep a little better at night knowing your family is being looked after. So keep your eyes open for one of our reminder postcards and don't ditch it. Act on it! It's worth it to you isn't it?



What's Cookin'???

I remember being a Girl Scout and reviewing safety in the kitchen when I was in third or fourth grade. We were each given an empty coffee can, a piece of paper and some baking soda. We filled the can with baking soda and drew fire safety pictures and the words "Fire Extinguisher" on the paper. We taped the paper to the coffee can, covering it completely and gave it to our mom to keep on the counter in the kitchen. The project took all of five minutes to complete, but it was a lesson I remember to this day and passed along to my daughter who has just begun to experiment with cooking on the stovetop.

It's peculiar how many people don't pass along fire safety lessons to their children. Sure we tell our kids "Don't Touch." "That's hot." "You'll get burned." "You'll start a fire if you do that." But why haven't we addressed the simple things like putting a lid on the pot that's on fire, using a fire extinguisher properly, throwing baking soda on a small flame to extinguish it, etc.

While children are taught to fear fire, as they should be....it's a force to be reckoned with, as adults we may be doing an injustice by not teaching them the difference between fearing fire and respecting it.

Monitor Controls, Inc. can coordinate a safety class on the proper use of fire extinguishers for your family, group, company or classroom. We'll have extinguishers for children to use and try out on their own, as well as any adults who may be shaky or just plain intimidated.

Feel free to contact us and ask for our sales staff for more information.

- ◆ Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.
- ◆ 3 in 10 reported home fires start in the kitchen—more than any other place in the home.
- ◆ 2 out of 3 reported home cooking fires started with the range or stove.
- ◆ Electric ranges or stoves have a higher risk of fires, injuries and property damage, compared to gas ranges or stoves, but gas ranges or stoves have a higher risk of fire deaths.



WATCH PANIC BUTTON

Wrist watch panic buttons have become popular among convenience store clerks for good reason. The item looks like a watch and can be pressed with little attention being brought to it.

It works with a wireless receiver that is connected to your existing alarm system and is relatively inexpensive. Contact our office to get one for your home or office.

Copper Thefts Continue to Rise Nationwide



When a common metal soars in value, it understandably becomes a target for thieves. But when they put themselves and innocent people in danger, more needs to be done to prevent such thefts.

Copper corrodes slowly and is a good conductor of electricity, which makes it useful for home and business wiring and piping. But its value has risen sharply due to production shortfalls and higher

demand.

With copper sold on commodities markets for \$1.40 a pound in 2005 and now (at time of this publication) at \$3.35 per pound, no wonder it has become such a prime target in substations and new construction.

Electric utility substations are often in remote locations and guarded typically by chain-link fences intended to deter curious passersby, not criminals equipped with wire cutters. People looking to strip wire and plumbing from vacant houses has become so popular that we find ourselves installing more camera systems on construction sites than ever before.

Copper thefts from California's largest utility may reach \$1 million by the end of 2007. But this issue is not focused on one area of the country. Central Maine Power Company alone experienced 26 copper related incidents so far this year.

While the theft is an obvious issue that can be addressed with tighter security, the more pressing concern is safety as thefts of copper grounding straps from substations alone expose the perpetrators and even utility workers to fatal levels of electric shock. At least 15 deaths have been reported nationally since the current copper theft wave began.

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-Nexis/Lexis

Emergency Preparedness is No Joke

A friend of mine was recently hurt in a freak accident at home that left him out of work for 6-8 weeks. In the midst of the "normal" chaos surrounding such a tragic event, I began to take inventory of certain items of my own. I found that I am not quite as prepared in case of emergency as I thought. Since this past September was National Preparedness Month and the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) offered tips to help individuals put their banking and financial documents in order to prepare for an emergency or unexpected event, I figured I should pass along certain information that might be of help.

"While the first priority is the physical safety and well-being of you and your family, having your banking and financial papers in order can lighten your burden during a time of duress."

"Experience tells us that families need to be ready with a financial preparedness plan and pulling one together is something you can do now." ICBA offers the following tips to help consumers prepare before an emergency occurs.

- ⇒ 1. Keep marriage and family records, including adoption papers, property deeds, birth certificates, wills, insurance policies, passports, Social Security cards, immunization records, credit card account numbers, car titles or lease contracts, bank and investment account numbers and three years of tax returns in a safe-deposit box. Place each document in a plastic bag that can be sealed to keep out moisture.
- ⇒ 2. Safeguard official copies of critical documents such as birth certificates, adoption papers, marriage certificates and the deed to your home with an attorney or in a safe deposit box.
- ⇒ 3. Inventory and keep a list and photographs of household valuables.
- ⇒ 4. Start and regularly contribute to an emergency fund that can cover at least three to four months of expenses. This fund should be separate from your savings or investment account.
- ⇒ 5. Stash extra cash with your emergency kit, which should include a three-day supply of water and food, first-aid kit, can opener, flashlights, radio and extra batteries, or a battery-free radio.
- ⇒ 6. Notify a trustee, close relative or attorney where important financial information is located.
- ⇒ 7. Identify the records that you keep only on your computer. They may not be available if electrical power fails, so make a printout and safeguard them.
- ⇒ 8. Keep names and contact numbers for executors, trustees and guardians in a safe place, possibly in your safe deposit box or with a close relative.

- ⇒ 9. The Internet can serve as a supplement to paper copies. Scanned or other electronic documents can be attached to e-mails and stored in your e-mail account, or with secure online backup services.

-Security Products Newsletter

Thinking of Changing Phone Service Providers?

While Monitor Controls, Inc. cannot aide you in your decision to choose one telephone service provider over the other, we can help to ensure your security system remains functional.

If you are thinking about switching to a CABLE provider for your phone service, ask the following questions:

- ? Does the cable company know you have a security or fire alarm system? If no, please advise them in advance.
- ? Does the cable company know where to look for the alarm system phone line wiring? If no, contact our office in advance and we can provide you with direction.
- ? Following the conversion, have you performed a complete test of your alarm and were all signals received by our central station? If no, contact our central station and let them know you will be testing your system. Set your system and trip every zone. Call the central station back and make sure they received all signals. If any zones were not received, ask to speak with our service department.
- ? Do all of your phones go dead when the alarm system calls into the central station? If no, immediately contact our service department.

If you are thinking about switching to another TELEPHONE provider (be it AT&T, Vonage or any other) for your phone service, ask the following questions:

- ? Does your security system or fire system report to our central station? If yes, you need to perform a complete test of your alarm by contacting our central station and letting them know you will be testing your system. Set your system and trip every zone. Call the central station back and make sure they received all signals. If any zones were not received, ask to speak with our service department.
- ? Do all of your phones go dead when the system calls into the central station? If no, immediately contact our service department.
- ? If you switch to DSL, has Monitor Controls, Inc. installed a filter on your system? Without a filter there is no guarantee that your system will communicate with our central station.



This quarter we thank our employees celebrating anniversaries with us:

John W. Yusza, Jr.	37 years
Elaine Bartholomew	22 years
Kathryn Yusza	13 years
Allyson McLear	9 years
Daniel DePaolo	5 years
Megan Sherrick	3 years
Amee Marcantonio	2 years
Denise Ransome	1 year



Barbara Smith	12/04
Daniel DePaolo	12/05
John W. Yusza, Jr.	02/04

We Accept



Welcome Back from Iraq!!!!

We couldn't think of a better way to celebrate Veteran's Day than by hosting a "Welcome Back from Iraq" (and Kuwait) breakfast for our own Christopher Reilly.

As we've been keeping you all posted, Chris began work for us in 2006 when he received word that he was being deployed to the middle east. Well we are proud to announce that he has returned safe and sound to us where his fellow employees welcomed him back with open arms at 08:00 hours on Monday November 12, 2007, Veteran's Day.

"I can't believe this is all for me", stated Reilly who served as a technical inspection specialist with the United States Army stationed first in Iraq and later in Kuwait.

"If I can give any piece of advice, it is to be thankful every day for what you have", answered Reilly as he was questioned by the Record Journal Newspaper. For the complete article published in the Record Journal on November 13th, please visit our website at www.monitorcontrols.com and click on News.



Seasonal Cash Flow Shortage?

For our commercial clients and municipal clients who want or need to make changes to their security, vide, fire or access control systems, but who may be suffering from a seasonal cash flow shortage, fear not. We can get you the system you need and work with you on the payments. Our new leasing company will offset payments based upon year-end fiscal budgets and adjust them when it's convenient for YOU!



The application process is simple. It's only one page. So if you're planning on changing, adding or upgrading anything, ask for a lease quote as well. You can take anywhere from 12-60 months to pay, choosing a monthly amount that works for you. It doesn't get any easier!



Congratulations to our own Ame Marcantonio (central station dispatcher) & Richard Bohannah (service technician) on their recent nuptials!

They are following in the footsteps of some fairytale romances here at Monitor Controls.

We wish them all the very best for a happy, healthy life together!