

FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

Although this brochure deals mainly with home burglar alarm systems, no discussion of life safety would be complete without some mention of the need to take intelligent measures against the dangers of fire and smoke. This has nothing to do with how careful you may be. No matter how thorough a fire prevention program you may follow, fire authorities agree that fires may still break out. Therefore, it is advisable to install quality protection to provide maximum safety. According to the nation's leading fire authorities, the time needed to escape from a dangerous home fire is best provided by an early warning system with an emergency evacuation plan.

In the opinion of most leading experts, the very least that should be provided, is the installation of smoke detectors on every level of the home. It is also advisable to install smoke detectors in any living area separated from other detectors by a door, such as bedrooms. Heat detectors are recommended in other areas of the home, such as kitchens, furnace rooms, attics, garages, where smoke detectors would not perform well. When any unit trips the system, the sound should be heard throughout the house. It is extremely important to know the power source for the fire alarm system. If the power source is household electricity, the smoke detectors may not work if you have an electrical fire. If the smoke detector works on battery, you must have a fresh battery in the unit in order for it to work. The best smoke detectors are those that are part of the integrated security system, not stand-alone units.

IMPORTANCE OF MONITORING

The procedure of sending an alarm signal to a central monitoring station is an excellent form of protection when used in conjunction with an audible alarm. Many insurance companies recognize this, by providing a discount on homeowner's insurance if the alarm is monitored. Such an off-premise alert means that help will be sent quickly in an emergency. For fire situations, every second is precious. For confrontational panic situations the criticality of the moment is obvious.

REPUTABLE ALARM COMPANIES

The foremost consideration in purchasing an alarm system is to be sure you are dealing with a reputable company. Don't select an alarm company on the basis of price alone. As with many other things, you generally get what you pay for. Remember that your personal safety and property are at stake. There are substantial differences in the quality of alarm system design, installation, equipment, and service after the sale.

Check with your local police and fire departments. They know who provides reliable alarm protection services. They may have given you this pamphlet, that is provided to police and fire departments as a public service. Companies who are members of the Pennsylvania Burglar and Fire Alarm Association (PBFAA) have demonstrated a commitment to customer service and adhere to the highest installation standards. Choose a company that has made a public commitment to do business in accordance with the PBFAA Code of Ethics.

FOR A LISTING OF PBFAA MEMBERS IN YOUR AREA, PLEASE CONTACT THE PBFAA STATE OFFICE AT THE NUMBERS LISTED BELOW or VISIT US ON THE INTERNET AT WWW.PBFAA.COM

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RESIDENTIAL ALARM SYSTEMS

Prepared as a public service by the



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