FARA
FALSE ALARM REDUCTION ASSOCIATION

False Alarm Prevention
Information for Alarm Users

IT IS EVERYONE'S
RESPONSIBILITY TO
STOP
FALSE ALARMS

Provided as a Public Service by the False Alarm Reduction Association- www.faraonline.org

Consumer Security System Operation Reminders

Once alarm users are comfortable with their security system, it becomes a regular part of daily life. As such, alarm users forget how changes in their day-to-day living can adversely affect how the system works or the ability for them to be contacted in an emergency situation. The following is a list of the most important information to review from time to time to ensure that your system always provides optimum performance. For more in-depth information on these topics and others, please visit the False Alarm Reduction Association website at **www.faraonline.org** and review the information under "Consumer Tips."

Environment

Remodeling   Always notify your alarm company before you begin any remodeling (such as painting, sanding, moving walls, and repairing/replacing doors or windows).

New Furniture   If you acquire new furniture or do a serious rearrangement of existing furniture, be mindful of interior sensors that may be affected, particularly with indoor pets moving freely through the home.

Pets   Ensure that new pets will not activate interior sensors. Remember, just because they don't go everywhere when you are home, doesn't mean they won't when you are away!

Decorations   Seasonal decorations (such as helium balloons, plants, holiday lights) may activate interior motion detectors.

System Users – Regular and Temporary

Always be certain that all persons with a key to the premises are trained to use the system and have an entry/exit code to turn the system on and off, as well as a passcode or password to give the monitoring company, which identifies them as authorized to be in the premises.

Most alarm companies have systems that accommodate temporary arming codes and passcodes for persons other than the property owner(s). These codes can be added and deleted by you at any time to control temporary access as needed.

Securing the Premises before Turning the Security System On

Always remember to secure and lock all entry doors and windows. Deadbolts, security bars and non-key locking pins should also be engaged. Before turning on the system, bypass;
- any contact or interior sensor that is not working properly, until it can be repaired.
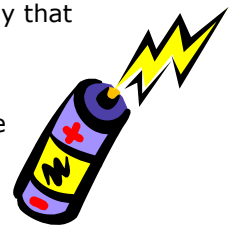- motion detectors, if an animal will be allowed to move freely through the premises.

Following these steps each time you are ready to turn on your system will eliminate many possible false alarms.

Testing Communications

All security systems should be checked regularly to ensure that they are communicating with the monitoring company. Your alarm/monitoring company will give you information on how to send test signals and what to do if there is a problem. If you disconnect all your hardwired phone lines, install DSL, or move all your premises voice communication to an internet base, your security system MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RELIABLY COMMUNICATE WITH THE MONITORING COMPANY – IF AT ALL! Do not test your alarm system without first notifying your alarm/monitoring company that you are doing so!

Batteries and Maintenance

Back-up Batteries – All security alarms have a large back-up battery in the control panel that runs the system for four to six hours during power outages. The life of a battery depends on how many power consuming devices are installed and how often the batteries are required to "kick-in" due to power failures. Be proactive and replace batteries before they die and cause false alarms.

Wireless Component Batteries – Always replace per manufacturer or alarm company specifications.

Emergency Contact Information Updates

Be sure to contact your alarm company and your jurisdiction with any changes to your account information and any changes to your contact list at least once a year!