

THE SENTINEL

A Newsletter from Dial One

Volume 8, Number 3

Winter 2000

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present the winter issue of *The Sentinel*. We created this newsletter seven years ago to keep you informed of important safety and security issues.



John Lindberg, President

In this issue, you will learn tips for holiday fire safety and you'll receive pertinent information on smoke detector placement. On page 3, Randy Johnson offers information you need to know about your motion detectors and preventing false alarms. This issue also includes an Employee Spotlight featuring Bill Westerkamp.

Dial One is proud to have been serving the Tri-state since 1979, specializing in security systems, fire alarms, closed-circuit camera systems and card access control systems for residential and business customers.

If you have any comments about this newsletter or suggestions about topics you would like to see covered, please call me at (513) 527-4400.

Sincerely,

John Lindberg

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Preventing Holiday Crimes

The holiday season means homes full of sparkling gifts, and stores teeming with dazzling displays and frazzled, unsuspecting shoppers. During the holidays, people get so wrapped up in the last-minute rush of the season that they often become oblivious to the world around them.

Dial One would like to help its customers by suggesting a few crime prevention tips for businesses and homes during this time of festive celebration. These tips are not only relevant for the holiday season, but for the entire year as well.

BUSINESSES

Crimes such as burglary, vandalism and shoplifting cost businesses billions of dollars each year. Many of these crimes could be prevented if businesses would be proactive in protecting their assets.

- Make sure employees know to immediately report locks and lights that are not working properly.
- Sign-in policies should be put in place at the front desk to keep track of visitors.

Shoplifting is a major concern for storeowners, especially during the holiday rush. With a few simple steps, storeowners can prevent the loss of merchandise and money.

- Keep the store neat and orderly. This makes it easier to tell if something is missing.
- Use mirrors to eliminate blind spots in the corners of stores.
- Keep merchandise away from exits. This will prevent thieves from easily swiping goods and walking out.

PERSONAL SHOPPING

Shoppers must always be conscious of themselves and their packages while shopping.

- If you've been out shopping all day and it's dark when you're ready to leave the mall, have your keys ready and pay attention to your environment. Have someone walk you to your car if possible.

- Try not to park in an isolated area.
- Make sure all windows and doors are locked when leaving your car, even if you'll only be gone a minute.

HOMEOWNERS

Staying alert doesn't end when you finish your shopping. Homeowners should be aware that one out of 10 homes will be burglarized this year, and in almost half of those burglaries, thieves will enter through an unlocked door or window. Also keep in mind the following tips if you will not be home for the holidays.

- Keep blinds and shades in their normal positions.
- Put timers on your lights.
- Stop your mail and newspaper delivery or have a neighbor pick them up.
- Have a neighbor park in your driveway overnight.
- Motion-detecting lights are also a good deterrent to burglars, for both homes and businesses.
- Remember to activate your security alarm.

One of the most important and easiest tips to remember is also the one most often forgotten. *Always lock your doors and windows.* Burglars are more likely to give up if they can't find an easy way in.

Dial One wishes all its customers a happy and safe holiday season!

Holiday Fire Safety

As you decorate for the approaching holidays, Dial One would like to remind you of some simple precautions you can take to protect your business and home from fire.

- When selecting decorations, choose those made with flame-retardant materials.
- Keep in mind when decorating that all exits should be completely clear of decorations and cords in case you need to exit the building quickly.
- Firmly secure your tree to keep it from tipping.
- Never decorate a tree with candles.
- Be sure to extinguish all candles when leaving a room; burning candles should never be left unattended.
- If you are leaving a room, remember to turn off all the lights. If you will be gone for an extended amount of time, remember to unplug all your lights and other electrical displays.
- When decorating the outside of your business or home, use only lights designated for outdoor use.
- Keep all electrical connectors out of puddles/snow.
- Make sure you have at least one fire extinguisher and familiarize yourself with how to use it in case of a small fire.
- Make sure that during business hours all exit doors are unlocked or able to be opened from the inside without a key to ensure a quick and safe exit in case of emergency.

Remember that December, January and February are the leading months for house fires and deaths as a result of fire or smoke inhalation. Keep your family and employees safe this holiday season by making safety your first priority.

* Source: National Fire Protection Association



Fire Prevention and the Importance of Smoke Detectors

Dial One is constantly striving to ensure the safety of customers' businesses and homes. During this holiday season, Dial One would like to remind customers about the importance of smoke detectors.

Fire is a deadly threat to any business or household. Not only does fire cause billions of dollars in damage each year, it kills and injures thousands.

"We want to make sure that our customers are doing everything they can to remain safe, whether at work or at home," said Dial One President John Lindberg.

Fires are now occurring at an estimated rate of 2.6 million per year in the United States. Last year more than \$3 billion was reported in damages to non-residential facilities. This figure does not even include the cost of interruption to businesses. Taking a few simple steps to protect your business or home from a fire emergency can prevent property damage and save lives.

The National Fire Protection Association recommends installing smoke detectors on each level of your house, with one in each bedroom and bedroom hallway.

The kitchen is also an important area for a smoke detector, as this is where two-thirds of all fires start in the home. A house fire doubles in size and strength every 30 seconds, so there is very little time to get to safety. The more smoke detectors distributed throughout your home or business, the better your chances of getting an early warning and making a safe escape.

"It's important to remember that fire is deadly but it is also preventable," said Lindberg.

Smoke detectors should be tested once a month to make sure they are in proper working order. Batteries and circuits should be checked and the smoke detector vents should be cleaned. Keep in mind that a 10-year-old smoke detector has been monitoring the air 24 hours a day, every day. That adds up to more than 87,000 hours. Make sure you replace your smoke detectors at least every 10 years.

With a few simple, precautionary steps, you can save your business or home from the loss and devastation of fire. For more information, call Dial One at (513) 527-4400.

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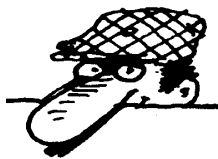
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Randy's Reminder

As we approach the holidays, our thoughts turn to the many activities that go hand in hand with the season. What effect our holiday decorations may have on motion detectors is usually one of the last things we think about. Most of the time, a room equipped with a motion detector will not be affected by what we change for the season. However, when we introduce popular holiday decorations such as tinsel, animated figures or even helium balloons, the potential for false alarms is greatly increased.

The job of a motion detector is to look for any movement in the surrounding area. Someone walking through the room or even a decoration that moves slightly when the furnace turns on can activate the motion detector. When decorating your home, keep in mind the location of all motion detectors and decorations. This will help avoid false alarms and give you peace of mind during the holiday season.



Burglary Blunders

Co. 2000 "News of the Weird," Universal Press Syndicate

MAY I SEE YOUR ID?

A man walked into a Colorado Springs, Colo. corner store and demanded the clerk to fill his bag with money. As the clerk filled the bag, the robber told him to add the bottle of scotch from behind the counter to the bag. The clerk refused repeatedly, saying, "I don't believe you are over 21." Frustrated, the robber removed his driver's license from his wallet and showed it to the clerk, proving he was in fact 21. The clerk added the scotch to the bag and handed it to the robber, who then ran from the store. The clerk proceeded to call the police and give them the name and address of the robber, which he had memorized from the driver's license. Two hours later, the robber was arrested.

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

While reporting her stolen car, a woman mentioned to police that her cell phone was still in the car. A policeman called her phone, telling the man who answered that he was interested in buying the car after seeing it in the newspaper ad. The two arranged to meet and the thief was promptly arrested.

A PICTURE'S WORTH 1,000 WORDS

An English man was unknowingly caught in an automated speed trap, which measured his speed using radar and photographed his car. After receiving a £40 ticket in the mail, along with a photo of his car, the motorist sent a photo of £40 to the police department. The police responded with another photo, this time of handcuffs. The motorist immediately sent in the money for his fine.

PROVING A POINT

While on trial, a Michigan man claimed he had been searched without a warrant. The prosecutor explained that the officer didn't need a warrant because the bulge in the defendant's jacket could have been a gun. The defendant, who happened to be wearing the same jacket that day, stated that this was nonsense, and handed the jacket to the judge for proof. The defendant proved himself correct, for what the judge found was not a gun but a packet of cocaine. The judge laughed so hard, he required a five-minute recess to compose himself before sentencing.

SHOW AND TELL

As Detroit police officers were showing children their computer felon-location equipment, a man walked up and asked how it worked. The police officers asked for the man's driver's license and entered the information into the computer. Moments later, the man was placed under arrest after the screen showed he was wanted for a two-year-old robbery in St. Louis.

ITCHY TRIGGER FINGER

A pair of Michigan robbers entered a record store nervously waving revolvers and shouting, "Nobody move!" When his partner moved, the startled first robber shot him.

Employee Spotlight: Bill Westerkamp

Dial One values the hard work of all its employees, but in this issue of *The Sentinel*, the spotlight is on commercial installation supervisor Bill Westerkamp. Bill joined the company in December of 1998 with almost no alarm industry experience. Bill has recently been promoted to his current position as supervisor.

Bill's responsibilities include overseeing and participating in installation, making sure the job is completed on time and on budget as well as giving feedback to salesmen.

"As the technology becomes more and more advanced, Bill must supervise installations of ever-increasing complexity," said Dial One President John Lindberg.

Before joining Dial One, Bill worked in maintenance, doing machinery repair and electrical work. A Cincinnati native, Bill graduated from Elder High School.

"Working at Dial One, I never do the same thing from day-to-day. One day I'm installing a camera system and the next I'm working on an access control system," said Bill. "The people here in the office and in the field make my job easy and enjoyable."

In March of 2001 Bill will marry his fiancée of 1 1/2 years, Michelle.



Holiday Greetings From Dial One



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