



Security Makes Sense

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THE SENTINEL



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Your Guide to Better Security

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What Happens If My Phone Line Gets Cut?



A frequently asked question by many of our customers is “what happens if my phone line is cut?” One important fact to remember is that the weakest link in the chain of security is your phone line. Your system relies on your existing phone line to communicate emergency information to the central station. If your line is cut, or your internet/cable phone service (VOIP) goes down, or your phone line is damaged by a storm, the security/fire system will still sound the siren at the premises, but it will not be able to communicate to the central monitoring station.

To ensure consistent and reliable central station communication, we strongly recommend Secured Monitoring. Uplink® is a small cellular radio transmitter that communicates with the central station through Verizon’s advanced wireless communications network and ensures your system’s “call for help” gets through. Many of our clients have added this technology to their system for its increased reliability. This service is ideal for clients with internet/cable based phone service, remote locations and anyone who wants increased security for their home or business. For more information and pricing on this service, contact Scott at extension 101 or visit our website at www.smsalarms.com.



Fire by the Numbers

What is the fire threat?

Number of residential fires in 1999	371,000
Number of fire deaths in the home in 1999	2,895
Cost of residential fires in 1997	\$4,565,000,000



Source: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 1999

Do You Have Working Smoke Detectors In Your Home?

Whether they are battery operated, line voltage or a low voltage electronic system type, smoke detectors save lives; if you don't have smoke detectors, consider adding them to your current life safety system.

How many detectors do I need? State and national codes require at least one smoke detector on every level of an existing home.

New homes also require at least one smoke detector on every level of the home, in each bedroom and within 10 feet of each bedroom. Heat detectors, (not required by code), should be installed in areas where smoke detectors could cause a false alarm but there is a greater threat of fire (such as the boiler room, laundry room, attic space and kitchen area).



The advantages of low voltage system type detectors are numerous. They can be monitored by the central station to notify the fire department in case of a fire and they contain a centralized power supply/battery back-up, (eliminating the need to replace individual smoke detector batteries) they are also fully supervised, so if a wire is broken or a detector is removed from the system, the keypad will show trouble and report this to the central station.

For more information, or a free estimate, please contact our sales department at extension 101.

Employee Profile

In this issue of the Sentinel we are proud to profile Mr. John Thiessen, Jr. who joined SMS this past August and works as a Senior Installer/Service Technician in our Installation Department. John has been in the security industry for over 11 years. He also holds an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice and is a Certified Registered Locksmith. In his spare time he serves as a volunteer Fireman with the Denville Fire Department. John resides with his wife and daughter in Denville, NJ.

