FARA FALSE ALARM REDUCTION ASSOCIATION

False Alarm Prevention
Information for Alarm Users

IT IS EVERYONE'S
RESPONSIBILITY TO

STOP

FALSE ALARMS

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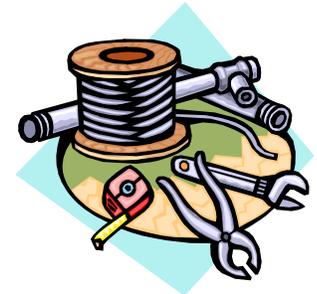
New Home Move-Ins
Is There a Security System Already Installed?

You are ready to move into a new home or apartment and it is already wired for a security system. There may or may not be security equipment already in place. Whether you are going to utilize the system or not, the following is valuable information you should have.

Wiring Only With No Equipment Attached

A newly constructed home may be wired for a security system, but the equipment is not always installed.

- The company that pre-wired the home for security may not be the same company that will install the security system components.
- You may have choices as to what equipment you can use in some areas of the home based on what will work best for the environment you are creating.

If the contractor is only providing pre-wiring, you may have to hire the security company of your choice to install equipment. If you need more information on how to choose a security company, please visit the False Alarm Reduction Association website at www.faraonline.org and review the information under "Consumer Tips."

Where the contractor is working exclusively with a particular security company, they will provide you with the security company information. At your convenience, you will be able to schedule a time to meet with an alarm company representative, discuss the best equipment for your environment and then have it installed.

If you are moving into a previously owned home, the prior owners may have removed the system components but left the wiring. We strongly encourage you to ensure that all existing wiring is thoroughly tested by the security company you select to install new system components. Sometimes, when equipment is removed, the integrity of the wiring is compromised and may lead to false alarms in the future.

Security Components Are Already Installed

Is the security system currently monitored? Ask the previous owner if the system is currently monitored. If it is and you do not intend on securing a monitoring agreement, ensure the previous owners have cancelled their service before your phone system is turned on. If you plan on securing a contract for monitoring, contact the alarm company for proper training and activation of the system. If this is not done, the monitoring company will not be able to verify your right to be in the home, and they will have to request a police dispatch each time you accidentally set off the system. That would be a serious misuse of police time and resources and could result in the imposition of fines against you for false alarms or for using an alarm system without being properly registered.

How do you find the right alarm company information? The previous owner should have provided you with security company information. If not, you will need to contact the security company that installed the system for power-down instructions. To find out who installed the system, check a keypad near one of your doors or the control panel, which is usually installed in a closet, and look for a security company name. Obtain the security company phone number through the yellow pages or call directory assistance for a toll free listing.

If the previous owner did not cancel service before moving out, you may have to present proof of ownership before the security company will assist you. The security company needs to be sure that they are dealing with a person, who has the legal right to shut the system down, and not a burglar.

Give serious consideration to activating the security system in your home. It can be a valuable deterrent to possible intruders, as well as an early warning signal to let you know something is wrong. Verify previous alarm history with the alarm company to identify possible false alarm problem areas. If smoke and heat detectors are part of the monitored system, you have the added piece of mind that the fire department will be summoned if you are unable to do it yourself.