

THE SENTINEL

A Newsletter from Dial One

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SPRING 1999

Dear Readers,

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



John Lindberg, President

In this issue, we explore Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Lines (ADSL) and their effect on security systems. You'll also have a chance to scan the *Associated Press*' list of the top 25 most-stolen automobiles to see if your car made the list.

Dial One is proud to have been serving the Tri-state for 20 years, 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.

We at Dial One would like to wish you a happy and safe 1999.

Sincerely,

John Lindberg

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Safe Spring Travel

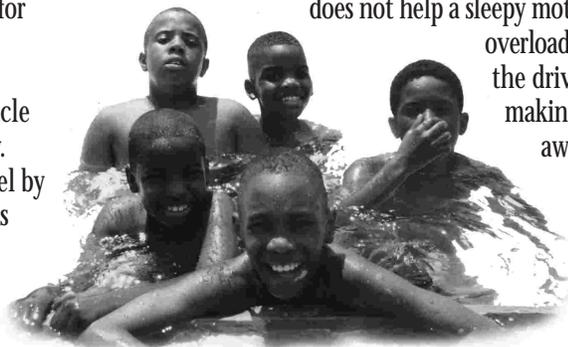
Whether it's the Easter holiday, or just some well-deserved time off from work, the arrival of spring brings with it an increase in travel. If you plan on welcoming the warm weather with a road trip, consider taking the following safety measures before heading for the highway.

Make your vehicle the first priority. Ensure safe travel by having car fluids replenished, wipers replaced and tires rotated. A valuable servicing of your car, truck or van in the days before departure is your ounce of prevention. In the event of a blown tire or dead battery, consider taking a cellular phone with you.

Allow enough travel time to reach your destination safely, avoiding tickets or traffic accidents. If you're traveling with your family, make sure to take advantage of rest areas to get out of the car and stretch. This is especially important for the driver — an alert driver is a safe one.

Have a plan for night travel. If you decide to drive through the night, be smart. Alternating drivers is a good way to keep a fresh set of eyes on the road. Keep conversation going to keep the driver alert. Contrary to popular belief, a blaring stereo does not help a sleepy motorist. The sound overload only wears down the driver's brain, making it harder to stay awake. Whether you are driving alone or with passengers, consider getting off the road to spend the night in a hotel. It is better to arrive late at your destination than to risk a wreck.

Finally, be sure to check in with a neighbor at home to ensure the safety of your house or apartment. Remember to leave a few lights on to make it appear as if someone is home, and stop delivery on your mail and newspapers or have a neighbor pick them up for you. Make sure your security system is tested and is in good working order. If you are unsure of how to test your system, please call our office at 527-4400 for more information or to schedule a professional test.



ADSL Lines Can Affect Security

A slow computer can be frustrating when you're trying to log on to the Internet or work from home using the Internet. But did you know that taking measures to make your computer faster might put your home security at risk?

Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Lines (ADSL) are now being offered by Cincinnati Bell and other companies across the country to provide speedier access to the Internet, interactive multimedia, video conferencing and remote office access for telecommuting. The ADSL operates over a single, twisted pair of copper wires, providing a high speed data "pipe" to transfer information.

ADSL lines require installation by the phone company. Improper installation may result in your security system communicating at a lower level of security — or a complete failure of the system — due to a loss of line seizure. It is important to let the phone company and its installers know before they begin work that your house has an alarm system with a RJ-31X jack. This jack looks very similar to an ordinary phone jack.

The RJ-31X allows your security system to communicate with the central station without someone being able to interfere with the communications by picking up the phone. Virtually every security system has this type of jack located in or near the security panel.

Some ADSL installations are being done by sub-contractors to Cincinnati Bell. If the installer does not understand the function of a RJ-31X jack, they should contact Cincinnati Bell's service department at (513) 565-2210.

Your security system should be tested to ensure safety after the ADSL installation is complete. If you have additional questions or would like a complete system test, call Dial One at (513) 527-4400.

Web Camera Servers

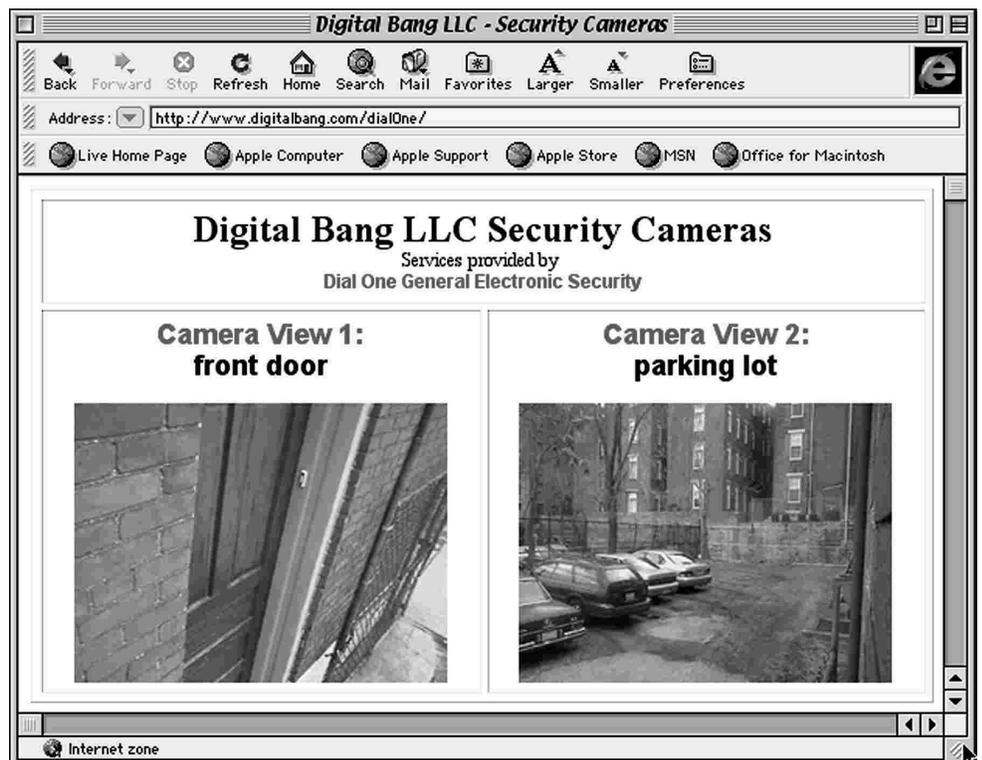
Dial One now offers Web Camera Servers. Having a Web Camera Server added to an existing camera system or as part of a new camera system allows video pictures to be viewed with your computer's Web browser. The information can be made available across your local Intranet and/or Internet. The price can be a fraction of the cost of adding a second viewing area for multiple cameras.

To display the video, simply use your browser to pull up the camera's picture, which gives you the ability to monitor cameras (from anywhere in the world) on any computer screen in the office. The video pictures can be displayed in a pre-packaged Web page or integrated into existing Web pages for security, for informational purposes, or for promotional uses.

Uses include:

- monitoring a business when the owner is absent
- allowing parents to view their children at day care
- enabling employees to check who is at the front door
- allowing employees to check a dark parking lot before they enter it
- helping supervisors monitor cameras when a guard is taking a break
- permitting police officers to check a street corner

Call John Lindberg at (513) 527-4400 for more information.



Web Camera Servers allow these types of video pictures to be viewed with your computer's Web browser.

Randy's Reminder

Security systems and fire systems installed by Dial One have battery backup. In the event electrical power is lost to the home or business due to an electrical storm or power outage, the security or fire system will transfer to battery power. The batteries are located inside the main alarm panel. These batteries are maintenance free and are monitored by the panel for the voltage.

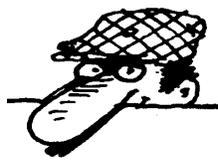


In the event the battery voltage drops, the panel can send a signal to the central station indicating low battery trouble existing at your location. There is a charging circuit built into the panel that will try to recharge the battery; this generally takes 24 to 48 hours. The batteries are on a constant trickle charge. They normally last 2 to 5 years.

How To Reach Us:

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Burglary Blunders

Co. 1998 "News of the Weird," Universal Press Syndicate

Slow as a Turtle

Edward DeWald was arrested in Loomis, Calif., and charged with robbing two Hallmark stores in Auburn, Calif. According to store clerks, a man had entered the store, asked if the store carried crystal turtles (as a pretext to put the clerk at ease), and then robbed him. Thinking he might use the same tactic, sheriff's deputies staked out the next-closest Hallmark store, in nearby Loomis, about eight miles away. Two days later DeWald confirmed their suspicions when he walked in, asked for "crystal turtles" again, and was immediately captured by deputies. DeWald soon confessed to the two earlier robberies.

Make Mine "To Go"

A 16-year-old boy was recaptured in Sylmar, Calif., after having escaped from a juvenile detention facility. He had kicked out a

window in the infirmary and been on the run for about seven hours when he was spotted in line at a McDonald's, still wearing the distinctive orange pants and shirt of the facility, with "Juvenile Hall" across the chest.

"Keystone" Cops?

In June, Police Chief Thomas O' Brien of Scotch Plains, NJ, imposed a fine on himself for inadvertently leaving his gun in a department store dressing room while he tried on clothes. Another shopper found it and, thinking it was a toy, played with it until a shot was fired through a nearby wall. Meanwhile, in Madison, Wis., Chief Richard Williams suspended himself for leaving his gun in the microwave oven at his home, where he sometimes hid it from potential burglars. The next day he absent-mindedly started roasting a turkey until the heat exploded a bullet through the door and into a banister.

Government Takes Steps to Make Sure Your Money is Secure

That new \$20 bill in your wallet may look funny, but it's just the government's way of making sure your money is just as secure as your home, your car, and your valuables.

Last May, the U.S. Treasury introduced the new \$20 bills in response to the growing number of counterfeiters making a fortune from funny money. According to the Treasury, the new series aims to maintain the security of the nation's money as computerized reproduction technology tools such as color copiers, scanners, and printers become more sophisticated and more readily available. The \$20 bill is the most frequently counterfeited note in the United States, and the government wants to make sure your hard-earned money is real.

To combat the technological advances in counterfeiting operations, the new \$20 note includes a watermark, color-shifting ink, and a vertically imbedded security thread. A large "20" on the back of the note has also been added so it is easier for the visually-impaired to read. In addition to the new \$20 bill, the \$50 and \$100 bills were redesigned. The \$10, \$5, and \$1 notes also will be redesigned and circulated in the near future.

If you have any questions or suggestions that you would like us to address in this newsletter, let us know. You can write to:

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Cincinnati, OH 45227
Phone: 513/527-4400
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Auto Safety Tips

Take the following precautions to discourage car thieves from choosing your automobile as their next target:

- 1) Park in well-lit areas, whether you're at work or running quick errands. It doesn't take long for a car thief to strike.
- 2) Always lock your doors, even if you'll only be gone for a few minutes.
- 3) If you often have to park in high-risk areas, consider purchasing a product that serves as a lock on your steering wheel.
- 4) Research anti-theft car alarm systems to see if one might benefit you. Hide all valuable possessions before exiting the car. If you're hiding something in your trunk, look around your car first to determine whether anyone is close enough to see you. Your valuables aren't protected if someone knows your hiding place.

How Secure Is Your Car?

The following is an excerpt from one person's recent car "shopping" experience.

"That's the one," he thought to himself. He had seen many commercials on television, and had wanted one of these cars for many months. Now the waiting was over. He was now standing in the lot with his dream automobile. Soon he would be behind the wheel, driving whenever and wherever he wanted. He made sure he was alone, raised the crowbar, and swung at the driver's side window with all his might...

Surprised? You can bet the real owner of the vehicle was. And unfortunately, this "shopping" story is based on a true story. Too many of them.

What are the odds that your car, truck or van may be next? Is what you drive wanted by automobile thieves? What are the most popular stolen vehicles?

According to the *Associated Press*, the following cars were most popular among car thieves in 1998.

The top 25 stolen vehicles in 1998, followed by rank in 1997:

1. 1989 Toyota Camry (1)
2. 1988 Toyota Camry (5)
3. 1990 Toyota Camry (3)
4. 1994 Honda Accord EX (2)
5. 1990 Honda Accord EX (7)
6. 1997 Toyota Corolla
7. 1992 Honda Accord LX (20)
8. 1995 Honda Accord EX (4)
9. 1991 Toyota Camry (8)
10. 1996 Honda Accord EX (19)
11. 1991 Honda Accord EX (16)
12. 1988 Honda Accord LX (6)
13. 1996 Honda Accord LX (11)
14. 1997 Ford F150 4x2 XL pickup (23)
15. 1995 Ford Mustang (10)
16. 1989 Chevrolet Caprice (17)
17. 1989 Honda Accord LX (12)
18. 1981 Honda Accord LX
19. 1987 Toyota Camry
20. 1991 Acura Legend (14)
21. 1996 Toyota Corolla (18)
22. 1989 Chevrolet C/K 4x2 pickup
23. 1992 Honda Accord EX (9)
24. 1990 Honda Accord LX (13)
25. 1994 Honda Accord LX

Source: CCC Information Services, Inc.