

THE SENTINEL

A Newsletter from Dial One

Volume 6, Number 3

WINTER 1998

Dear Readers:

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



John Lindberg, President

In this issue, we recommend methods of protecting your valuables, which can be very important if you're traveling for the holidays. On Page 2, learn about ways you can protect yourself in the workplace, and see the sidebar to find out about a valuable new service offered at Dial One.

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.

We at Dial One would like to wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

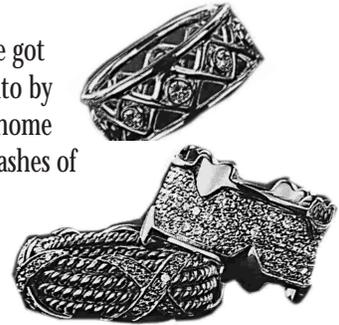
John Lindberg

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WHERE TO STASH YOUR CASH AND OTHER VALUABLES

You may have heard the saying "you don't know what you've got until it's gone." Those who have had their homes broken into by an intruder know all too well how devastating it is to come home to find important documents, family heirlooms and secret stashes of money missing.



Intruders target many areas of the home, but the most common is the bedroom. "Most people come home and toss the contents of their pockets in a dresser drawer. They may take off a watch or necklace and place it on the top of the dresser or in a prominently displayed jewelry box," says Don Eveatt, a certified master locksmith and president of Fortress, a Cincinnati company located in Springdale.

One way to prevent this type of loss is to invest in products such as safes, which are made to protect valuables. Eveatt says before purchasing a safe, homeowners must first evaluate their needs.

Wall safes, which are installed directly into the wall, are fairly small and work well for small documents and jewelry items. Similarly, floor safes are installed directly into the floor, though it is important that they are placed in an inconspicuous place, such as beneath a piece of furniture or in a closet.

Vaults are installed into a wall. With the proper steel reinforcements, closets can be transformed into vaults. Although extremely fire and tamper proof, vault doors are very heavy—upwards of 6,000 pounds. Therefore, a room's structure must be secure enough to handle this weight.

The most common safe is one that is free standing. These safes come in many sizes and may be placed in any room. However, it is important that homeowners bolt their safes to the floor. Otherwise, an intruder may take it on the way out. Homeowners should look for safes that already have holes drilled in their bases, or purchase bolt down kits. Never try to drill the holes yourself, for it could disrupt any fire protection the safe may have.

Don't wait until an untimely visit by an intruder leaves you without your possessions. Take an inventory of the valuables and important documents within your home and the appropriate measures to secure them.

THE ADDED PROTECTION OF MOTION DETECTORS

No matter how secure your home or business might be, sometimes added precautions make practical sense. A motion detector may be the ideal companion to your home or business security system. Used properly, quality motion detectors are a great addition to a home security system.

Modern motion detectors are much more sophisticated, and less expensive, than they were a few years ago. Most will eliminate false alarms caused by pets and other sources. The detectors can be mounted in inconspicuous places to detect when an intruder has entered your home or business.

Passive Infrared (PIR) motion detectors work by detecting heat from moving heat sources such as human beings. The detectors are activated when the heat source approaches them. PIR detectors are commonly used in security systems, outdoor security lighting and automatic indoor lighting.

Passive infrared differs from active infrared, which powers television and stereo remote controls. Active infrared is light produced by the device itself, while passive infrared has the ability to "see" in the dark.

Most Dial One systems are equipped with motion detectors. "They provide an added means of protection," says Dial One President John Lindberg. "If an intruder gets into your home through a window or side door that is not covered on your alarm system, these motion detectors will pick it up and quickly alert the central monitoring station."

IMPROPERLY WIRED TELEPHONE LINES INTERFERE WITH ALARM SYSTEMS

Before adding a new line or equipment to your telephone system, make sure you know the impact it may have on your alarm system.

You may not realize it, but your alarm takes over your phone line to connect to the central station when it is activated. The alarm can send its information to the station without being interrupted by incoming phone calls and faxes. It also prohibits an intruder from trying to stop the alarm signal by picking up a telephone set.

If your new phone line is incorrectly wired, it may interfere with the data

your alarm system sends to the central station, resulting in incomplete or unclear information regarding the safety of your home.

One way to determine whether your phone lines are properly connected is to pick up your phone after the alarm has been activated. If properly installed, the line will appear to be dead. If your lines are miswired, you will hear a "beeping" sound.

If you are considering adding a new line or equipment to your telephone, Dial One is available to answer your installation questions and to test your alarm system. For more information, contact Dial One at 513/527-4400.



Burglary Blunders

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

Life Imitates the Movies

A would-be robber walked away from the Marine Midland Bank in Pearl River, N.Y., exasperated that employees could not decipher his poorly handwritten holdup note. In fact, several hours later, detectives still hadn't figured out most of the words. ("Take the Money and Run" starring Woody Allen, 1968)

You're Speaking My Language

In January, Hipolito Vega was arrested in Holyoke, Mass., and charged on a previous warrant for driving without a license. He asked to make his one phone call from the police station and spoke in Spanish,

believing no one at the station could understand him. During the conversation, he told his friend where to pick up a stash of cocaine he had just hidden. However, Vega failed to notice Officer Manuel Rivera, who overheard Vega's conversation and alerted officers, who were waiting by the stash when Vega's friend arrived.

Playing the Numbers

Kelvin Floyd received a modest two-month sentence and a fine in Aiken, S. C. for stealing a car. Floyd had wisely known to obliterate the car's vehicle ID number and to replace it with a substitute number. However, apparently the best he could come up with was his own Social Security number, which police immediately recognized was bogus.

Randy's Reminder

For many people, decorating the house is one of their favorite parts of the holiday season. However, blinking lights or hanging decorations that reflect light can cause problems if your home alarm system is equipped with motion detectors (see Page 2).



The best thing to do is be aware of where the motion detector is located. Try to keep trees, lights or other decorations away from the area.

If this is impossible, you can bypass the system for a designated time. The steps for bypassing vary from system to system. If you have questions or need assistance, call 527-4400.

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SECURITY IN THE WORKPLACE

These days, Americans are spending much of their time at work. Very few jobs are strictly 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's more common to hear someone say they start their workday before 8 a.m. and leave the office well after 6 p.m. As a result, workplace security has become a top priority.

It is ironic that the greatest security problem most people face is one that actually occurs when they leave work for the day. Walking alone to your car can be dangerous. It is essential that the company parking lot or garage is well-lit and secure. There is safety in numbers, so if you plan to work late, try to have a colleague stay with you.

Some jobs involve direct customer service at a counter or front desk. Employees who hold positions such as these would benefit from the

installation of a panic button at their workplace. In the event of a robbery, the panic button, located out of sight below the desk, can be silently activated with a hand or foot.

Break-ins are far less likely in businesses that don't exchange cash at a counter, but thieves may still break into these companies at night to steal valuable equipment or other items. Dial One now offers a cellular backup system for added protection. The system works by "communicating" with the central office through a cellular system rather than the standard phone system. This prevents burglars from being able to circumvent the alarm system by tampering with phone connections. The cellular backup system is \$400 installed and \$16 a month for monitoring and associated system charges.

For more information, call 527-4400.

Web Camera Servers

Does your company have a closed-circuit camera system? Dial One now offers web camera servers, a new security service. These camera servers, which increase office security and safety issues, allow Dial One to integrate the closed circuit camera system on to your company's local Intranet and/or Internet. To operate, simply use your browser to pull up the camera's picture, which gives you the ability to monitor activities from any computer screen in the office.

Call 527-4400 for more information.

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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Happy Holidays from Dial One



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Front Row: Michelle Lucas, John Lindberg, Matt Nienaber