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Burglar Alarm Systems

Statistics show installing burglar alarm systems reduces the likelihood of a break-in by 67%.

An Alarm System is intended to detect a burglary, but will not necessarily prevent one. A system is only as good as its user and should be installed along with proper physical security reinforcement such as deadbolt locks, adequate lighting, secure basement windows and strong exterior doors.

There are two types of alarms: monitored and unmonitored. The monitored system notifies a third party when the alarm is tripped, who in turn notifies authorities of a burglary or trespasser. The unmonitored alarm only sounds on the premises. The unmonitored alarm relies on your neighbours to call the police, which they may or may not do. False alarms also waste valuable police resources and reduce the integrity of the alarm system. An unmonitored alarm is cheaper, but due to its unreliability may end up being more expensive in the long run.

For an alarm system to be effective, it needs to ensure a response occurs when it has been activated, hence the advantage of a monitored system over an audible-only system. There are a number of methods available to create the communication link between the alarmed premises and the monitoring centre, the most common being the telephone line. A monitored system is strongly recommended for all businesses.

Bear in mind that it is possible to circumvent monitored alarm systems by cutting the telephone wires before they enter the premise. Speak to an alarm company representative and ask the question "what would happen if someone cut the telephone line?" There are many ways to add "line security" to your system. The most popular method today is cellular back

up. If the phone line is cut the alarm system will still communicate with the monitoring station wirelessly via a cellular phone.

A monitored alarm system can have an audible delay, to give the monitoring station time to notify the police in the anticipation of catching the criminals on the premises. Alarm systems can incorporate visual verification of an intruder on the premises using additional signals to the monitoring station.

It is important to remember that all businesses are unique and will require different security measures. We encourage you to discuss your options with your chosen security company and your Federated Risk Services Coordinator.

Common Burglary Alarm System Terms

Motion Sensor

Motion detection systems detect movement in areas covered by the security sensor. Some motion detection systems transmit high frequency radio wave signals into the secure area of a room or hallway. Other systems may use infrared light to detect temperature changes, such as when a person (body heat) walks by the security sensor.



Knowing your business matters.

Contacts

The sensor mechanism is housed in the switch side of the sensor and a magnet is housed in the other half. Most door or window alarms utilize a contact switch, which has two metallic parts that must stay in contact when the sensor is armed. When the door or window is opened the two parts of the mechanism are separated and the alarm signal is sent.

Glass Break Sensor

Acoustic glass break sensors detect the sound of breaking glass. They can also detect sudden shockwaves of a breaking object such as glass or a door being kicked in. In this case, it is the shockwave of the breaking glass, not the sound itself that is being detected.

Wireless Security Systems

Modern wireless security systems have no cumbersome wiring, which means the wires can't be pulled out accidentally or have nails hammered through them which can set the alarm off or disable the system. Wireless systems are more mobile and offer more flexibility within a room or anywhere on a property.

Beam Security

Photoelectric beams consist of a transmitter and receiver. When the beam is interrupted, an alarm is triggered. They can be used inside buildings or outside to protect fenced compounds.

Heat and Smoke Sensors

These components can be added to any burglar alarm system easily.

Burglar alarms are effective deterrents to burglary and enhance building and lot security. The cost of burglar alarm systems is minimal compared to the costs of stolen goods, and are a necessity to protect your business.

Partners In Prevention

At Federated Insurance, we believe Loss Prevention is a critical component of your Risk Management Program. Your Risk Services Coordinator together with our Loss Prevention Team is available to assist you in developing security measures appropriate for your Business. Working together to reduce your loss exposures protects your bottom line!

For more information, contact your Risk Services Coordinator, our Loss Prevention Department at 1-800-665-1934, or visit our website at www.federated.ca

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