

TRANSMITTER

"Earning Your Trust"



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Hot Topic

Enhanced Call Verification Forthcoming

One Oklahoma municipality has taken steps designed to reduce the number of false alarms to which police, fire and rescue personnel respond.

Effective last month, an addition to the Edmond city code requires alarm-monitoring companies to attempt to contact home- or business-owners at the alarm system site.



Brad Shipp
Executive Director,
National Electronic
Security Alliance

If the user cannot be reached, an alternate number (or other individual who has been authorized by the primary user to cancel a response) must be called.

Police Department personnel are notified only after the second contact.



Paul Conrady
OKBFAA past president
and owner, Edmond
Security, Inc.

This process, called Enhanced Call Verification (ECV) or "2-Call Verification", is already required statewide in Tennessee, Delaware, Florida and Virginia, said **Brad Shipp**, Executive Director, National Electronic Security Alliance. ECV implementation has had significant results in these areas, Shipp said.

It has made an impact in Edmond as well.

"A study was done at an East Coast central station," said **Paul Conrady**, Oklahoma Burglar and Fire Alarm Association Past President. "The use of ECV decreased emergency personnel dispatches by approximately 64 percent."



Matt Schue
Dir. of Occupational
Licensing, Oklahoma
State Dept. of Health

Matt Schue, director of Occupational Licensing, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Alarm & Locksmith Program, said an overwhelming number of false alarms are generated by monitoring systems.

"The ECV method would require facilities that provide alarm monitoring to take additional steps to assure police departments are actually needed when an alarm signal is received," Schue said.

A statewide change would save alarm companies and emergency personnel time and resources, he said. The State Advisory Board has passed a rules change requiring an ECV method.



The State Advisory Board has passed a rules change requiring an ECV method. It goes to the Legislature this session, with the change effective July 1. But an emergency clause is being considered in a legislative rules committee, which would make the change active Jan. 1.

The rule change has been submitted for approval by the Oklahoma Legislature, but will not be introduced until it reconvenes. However, the proposed language has been submitted to the rules committee. Schue and OKBFAA leaders anticipate the change to be effective on July 1.

Chief **Jim Cox** (retired), Executive Director of The Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), said his organization supports Enhanced Call Verification, stating that while responding to valid alarms is important to the law enforcement community, they want to be sure that it's a valid alarm.

The OACP has joined OKBFAA in asking the rule be submitted as an emergency measure, which would make the measure take effect Jan. 1.

"We're encouraged by other entities trying to maximize the availability of officers," Cox said. "Responding to false alarms is time that's ill-used on not only the law enforcement side, but the alarm company's side as well."

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Office staff: Please route this newsletter to the company's owner or primary manager.

From the President

Rules changes have significant impact



Mike Nelson
President

As 2008 comes to a close, it is a good time to highlight some items from the past year, as well as address items for our industry to deal with in the near future.

Two important rules changes took place on July 11. Both changes have had a positive influence on the labor pool for our industry. First, an individual may submit a "quick" background check through OSBI along with their license application. This will allow the employee to begin working prior to the completion of the FBI background check. Secondly, a trainee may now work in the field during the rough-in stage of a system with indirect supervision.

The combination of these changes has added an additional 200 licensed trainees to our industry since July. For complete information on the rules changes, please reference the website for Occupational Licensing.

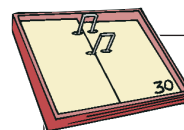
Another rules change which will have an impact on the entire industry deals with Enhanced Call Verification (ECV). Please check the article on the front page for details on this pending change. ECV, as well as the other rules changes mentioned, have been strongly influenced by input from the OKBFAA and individual members of the association. As other items concerning your industry are discussed in the upcoming year, make sure you attend the Association meetings so your input can be included.

Though no action has been taken, the Alarm & Locksmith Advisory Board has had discussions about potential education requirements. Separately, the Association Board recently considered joining Oklahoma Locksmith Association in asking the Legislature to add continuing education requirements to the state statute. The board voted against this action primarily to avoid having the statute opened up for any changes. Expect to see more discussion at the Advisory Board about education.

Education will also be a major topic within the Association. Occupational Licensing has stated a failure rate of 85 percent on license testing for burglar alarm. Since the education prerequisite was removed from the state rules, association education classes have diminished in size.

Other items to be discussed by the Advisory Board will include the definition of monitoring companies and the frequency of license renewals. Again, have your voice heard on the policies which impact your companies. Attend the Association meetings and become involved in the leadership of your industry.

In closing, I would like to ask everyone to take a look at the coverage in this issue of our annual meeting which took place Oct. 17. We look forward to a great event next year. Make sure you are on the invitation list next year by checking your company information on our website and make sure you have signed up for our "push page" email list.



Calendar

2009 NESA Certification Classes

Burglary, Codes/Standards with electronics, Fire, CCTV/Access Control

Jan. 16-18

March 13-15

May 15-17

July 17-19

Sept. 18-20

Nov. 13-15

Best Western, Stroud

The NESA program expands your knowledge of the constantly evolving world of electronic security and life-safety systems. Classes will be available if 10 or more students are enrolled. For more information and registration, please visit www.okbfaa.com.

OKBFAA Meetings

All meetings will be held at 9:30 a.m., and the meeting schedule for 2009 has changed to a quarterly meeting schedule.)

Dec. 4, 2008, SGI -Tulsa
3148 S. 108th E. Ave Suite 110
(918) 250-9298

March 5, 2009, ADI - OKC
3801 S. Moulton Drive
(405) 681-4008

June 4, 2009, ADI- Tulsa
4731 S. Memorial Drive
(918) 663-2822

Sept 3, 2009, SGI- OKC
4309 S.W. 21st St.
(405) 680-9595
(October annual meeting, TBA)

Dec 3, 2009, SGI -Tulsa
(address above)

State Advisory Board Meetings

Alarm & Locksmith
Advisory Committee

State Department of Health, Room 806
1000 N.E. 10th Street, Oklahoma City

Dec. 3
9 a.m.

(tentative, TBA by Dec. 15)
Jan 7
9 a.m.

Testing, or inspecting?

Every year, most commercial fire alarm systems are inspected in accordance with state laws and national fire alarm codes. But are they also being tested? The answer may come down to a choice in vocabulary.

An **inspection**, according to the National Fire Alarm Code (National Fire Protection Association Code 72), is a **visual check** of devices and systems to ensure that the system's components are still there and in working order. All items are unchanged from the initial install, and there have been no changes to the system that would affect the performance of the device.

Testing is actually **operating** the device to ensure it truly operates as it was designed. Examples of testing are ensuring a smoke detector can sense smoke, the strobe lights on a system flash, or bells and sirens activate when necessary.

This distinction is important because the National Fire Alarm Code requires inspections and testing of different components be completed at different frequencies. For example, the Code states fire-sprinkler, water-flow alarms and supervisory alarms must be tested every six months. They must be inspected quarterly. To see the different frequencies, check the inspection and testing tables located in Chapter 10 of NFPA 72.

(Steve Lutz has been teaching classes for OKBFAA more than 15 years. Lutz is a commercial fire alarm company manager and holds manager's licenses in Access Control Systems, CCTV & Surveillance, Fire and Security Systems, Locks and Physical Security, Monitoring and Nurse Call.)

Do you have a question?

This is the ninth issue of our newsletter, *Transmitter*. You will see it every other month.

We welcome comments and questions for which you would like us to get the answers. Send them to Mike Nelson, association president, at P.O. Box 702733, Tulsa, OK 74130-2773



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Membership Drive

Membership information and an application form can be found on the OKBFAA website, www.okbfaa.org. Membership is open not to just industry businesses, but to companies which service the burglar and fire alarm industries. Please consider passing along the application forms to your distributors and others.

And, we now take credit cards on-line!

Condolences

The industry would like to offer our condolences to Pete Quinones of Oklahoma City's All-American Security Systems in the loss of his wife to cancer.



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New board members elected

During the annual meeting last month, OKBFAA members installed its 2009 Board of Directors. They are: Mike Nelson, President; Rick Spring, 1st Vice President (new officer); Lisa Fields, 2nd Vice President; Jana Davis, Secretary & Treasurer; Wanda Day, Training Officer; Terry Boyll, Sergeant at Arms; and Paul Conrady and Pat Redpath, Past Presidents. All but Spring were up for re-election.

Spring has been a member of the OKBFAA for 10 years. He is co-owner of HESI in Oklahoma City, one of the largest systems integration companies in Oklahoma, employing 25 people within custom audio/visual and burglar, fire and surveillance. Also, he is newly selected as legislative liaison for NESAs.

With a new board comes more opportunities for you to get involved with your OKBFAA. There are several committee opportunities available to our membership. To find out more, please contact an OKBFAA Board Member or Executive Director Wanda Day.



Pictured with State Rep. Marian Cooksey, third from left, front, are new board members elected at the event, from left President Mike Nelson (3rd term), new board member and First Vice President Rick Spring, Second Vice President Lisa Fields (3rd term), Past President Paul Conrady, Rep. Cooksey, Secretary/Treasurer Jana Davis (4th term) and longtime training officer/executive director Wanda Day. Not pictured is Sergeant at Arms Terry Boyll (3rd term) and Past President Pat Redpath. Each term is for one year.

Member notes

Owner 'born' into industry

Rodney Stamps is President and CEO of STAMPSCO in Oklahoma City. Stamps, born into the alarm business, grew up working for Westark Sound Company/Omega Alarm Systems in Fort Smith, which was owned and operated by father Gary Stamps since 1966.

"I've always been around it," Stamps said. "My brother still works for our father."

Stamps grew up in Arkansas, but moved to Oklahoma 12 years ago when he and wife Paige purchased a business franchise. Once that was up and running, he said, they sold it and got back into the security business. Formed in 2002, STAMPSCO is a fire alarm and security integration company.

Rodney, wife Paige and their two daughters, Jessika, 17, and Jade, 13, enjoy watching movies, playing Frisbee golf and fishing.

"I caught a 70-pound flathead out of Lake Hefner," Stamps said.

Stamps said he's always been hands-on with his work, but that many people are surprised to learn his wife has also been active in installs. Paige Stamps, currently Executive Vice President of STAMPSCO, has installed fire alarm, security, intercom and network cabling.



President Rodney Stamps and wife Paige, executive vice president

The family is also heavily involved in cancer research, the result of Stamps' terminal cancer diagnosis in 2005.

"I was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and opted to not go with the traditional cancer treatments," he said. "I used a non-conventional method that involved local doctors, physicians in Idaho and New York, as well as some home treatments. It took a year-and-a half, but I'm now cancer free."

His diagnosis also made him switch to more of a management role and hire additional technicians and project managers. He grew his staff from four to 15 during those 18 months.

"I really have to compliment my people for taking up the slack during that time, because they truly did," he said.

(Each issue of Transmitter we will feature an OKBFAA member. To be considered for a feature, please call (918) 231-1696 or e-mail wandalday@yahoo.com.)

Inside this issue

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2008 Banquet Highlights

Thank you to our banquet sponsors

ADI • Continental Access • DSC



Banquet sponsors and their representatives are, from left, Scott Schramme of Continental; Frank Hylton of SGI, Marcus Batten of ADI, Troy Strelow of DSC, Cary Johnson of SGI and Joe Guernica of Napco. Other sponsors were Honeywell and El Dorado Insurance Co.



At left is \$500 scholarship recipient Taylor Nelson, with **President's Award** winner Jana Davis, the association's secretary/treasurer, given by last year's recipient Paul Conrady. She was recognized for outstanding services to the association. Other scholarship winners were (not present): Jordan Murray of Hydro, Jordan Williams of Edmond and Lorre Roberson of Coweta.

Jordan Brown, left, was honored with the **Rick Brown Education Award** for excellence in promoting education. James Cookerly was honored with the **Wanda Day Lifetime Achievement Award** due to his years of instruction. Cookerly has also served as chair of the NBFEE's education and training committee and was recognized with the prestigious Sara Jackson Award in 1991 as the NBFEE committee chair of the year.



2008 Banquet Highlights

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From left, Linda and Pat Redpath, past association president, attended the event as well as Jim Bennett. More than 100 attended the banquet and awards ceremony, held Oct. 17.



Ronald and Kathleen Williams attended and represent Sentry Security of Norman.



Pete Quinones, owner of All American Security Systems of Oklahoma City, attended the event, held at the Oklahoma City National Memorial.



Honeywell



Gene Holder, Romie Holder and Greg Wies of Holders Inc. in Tulsa were in attendance.



Speakers for the evening were Donna Weaver, wife of bombing victim and HUD attorney Mike Weaver, and Oklahoma City District Fire Chief Richard Kelley. Each addressed their roles in the April 19 Oklahoma City Murrah Building bombing. It was a moving and fitting talk in the setting of the Memorial.