



Commercial Instruments & Alarm Systems, Inc.

The Hudson
Valley's premier
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Fire Alarm
Provider

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Cameras can now replace guards

Video surveillance systems monitored by our Security Operations Center can act as a 'virtual guard'

Security guards are a common security solution for many businesses, but are they the best solution?

While security guards have many advantages, there are some disadvantages: guards cannot see everywhere at once and they can also be attacked by a thief or criminal leaving them unable to alert authorities.

A video surveillance remote guard solution, also called a virtual guard service, is a complete video surveillance system designed to help monitor and secure a site.

These systems use cameras to monitor building entrances and exits, or whatever your security needs are, and will send you alerts when activity is found. Live monitoring by CIA's Security Operations Center gives the ability to have eyes on a location and to quickly react to



situations (and call the police when necessary) without the need to employ security guards.

Security guards provide a valuable service, but unless you plan to hire enough guards to monitor all areas of your business 24/7, you'll need another security option to fill in at times — an even better idea when that solution can also provide significant savings for your business.

Whether you choose to completely replace guards with a remote guard

solution or supplement your current security forces, a virtual guard solution is about one quarter the price of traditional guard services and gives you:

- Continuous, 24/7 surveillance options
- Live monitoring by trained experts
- Alerts sent in real-time as activity is detected
- Stored video files for review

For more information, call CIA Security's sales office.



Avoid freezing pipes

Protect your properties from freezing pipes with a hi/low temperature sensor that easily installs into most existing security systems. The environmental device monitors temperatures from 40 to 110 degrees Fahrenheit and has adjustable high and low alarm set points. When the temperature reaches above or below the point you specify, your system contacts our Monitoring Response Center and you are notified.

Service Tip:

The back-up battery in your security system control panel should be replaced every three to four years.

CIA in Action

The operator of a Poughkeepsie laundromat was able to silently call for help when they were robbed in November. A silent holdup button was activated when the robber entered the facility and CIA dispatched police to the scene.

An electrical fire was detected at a Rhinebeck home in the early morning hours in November. Multiple devices were activated and CIA was able to quickly dispatch fire crews to limit the damage.

The fire alarm in a fast food restaurant in Highland was activated by a fire in the fryer. Emergency crews were dispatched and no damage was reported – other than to the fryer.

Safety tip:

Heating is the second leading cause of home fires, fire deaths and fire injuries. Nearly half (49%) of all house fires occur during December, January and February. Your home heating methods may increase the chances of accidental home fires and carbon monoxide poisoning during the cooler months.

We highly recommend investing in monitored smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors that would alert our Monitoring Response Center of any signs of danger. This will not increase your monthly monitoring fee.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the National Fire Protection Association, smoke alarms need to be replaced after 10 years, and carbon monoxide need to be replaced every five years.

Be sure to replace batteries in all wireless and electrician-installed smoke alarms. Call us for more details at 845-896-9500.



Testing your security system

Make sure all devices are fully operational with regular tests

In order for your security system to keep you safe, it needs to be working properly. Be sure to test your system on a regular basis and take time to do it right to avoid false alarms.

- Read the manual – failure to understand how the system works is the leading cause of system troubles and false alarms. Look in the Table of Contents or Index for the “Testing” section. Read it a couple of times to make sure you know what to do.
- Know how to arm and disarm the system and make sure you have a valid user code.
- Call CIA’s Monitoring Response Center to put your account on test and let everyone in the house know you are about to run a test.
- Close all protected doors and windows.
- Test each sensor – some systems will tell you which sensors have tested successfully and which have to be tested.
- When testing is complete, call the Monitoring Response Center and select option #2 for the “Non-emergency Dispatch Center” and verify your test results with the operator. Clear the test mode.

Change alarm codes for added security

The alarm code is where home security starts. Your code should not be something easily figured out by an outsider. For instance, using the birthday of all family members or anniversary dates is something that anyone familiar with the family may figure out given enough time.

Alarm codes should be changed periodically. When the codes are changed, make it on a day that everyone is home so they can get their new code and not risk triggering the alarm.

If you have to give access to someone



while you are not home, create a separate code for him or her and disable it immediately upon completion of the job.