Commercial Instruments & Alarm Systems, Inc.
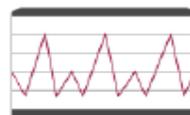
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New service has saved the day for video systems

Video Surveillance Health Monitoring

It has been over a year since CIA Security introduced our exclusive video health monitoring service designed to monitor the "health" of a customer's video surveillance system.

The service, available with a paid subscription, works to ensure a video system is functioning. It has virtually eliminated the prospect of an event occurring and the video system being down.

Video health monitoring has proved valuable for our customers as CIA has been able to see when a DVR was unplugged, when a hard drive failed, and when cameras have gone offline. Some of these problems occurred because of a power outage and the simple solution was to reset the system. But the owners were unaware that their video system had gone down and was not recording, except for the video health monitoring service.

A video surveillance system can be valuable when it comes to recreating an incident and protecting businesses -- but only if it works. Problems often aren't noticed until an incident requires an owner to look at recorded video and they find the system is down.

The health monitoring checks your DVR every hour to confirm the functionality of all cameras, storage HDD, and the network interface. CIA is the only security company to offer this valuable subscription service through our new high-definition DVRs.

Video health monitoring has also now been updated to allow customers to monitor the "health" of their own systems, sending an email notification directly to the customer when an irregularity is noticed. This allows the customer to troubleshoot any problems first, such as a system being unplugged. Our staff is available to help with any major issues that may arise, such as if a camera needs to be replaced.

For more information on this subscription service, call our sales department at 845-896-9500.

Alarm systems can save money on homeowners' insurance

Monitored safety and security devices in your home can reduce your homeowner's insurance up to 20 percent.

According to the FBI, a burglary occurs approximately every 15 seconds in the U.S., and homes without security systems are three times more likely to be burglarized than homes that have security systems. Insurance companies understand that a professionally monitored security system adds an extra layer of protection to your home, creating a safer environment for your family. They also know monitored security systems reduce the likelihood your home will be burglarized or suffer costly water or fire damage. That means there's less chance you'll file a claim with your insurance company. As a result, your insurance company saves money and they pass that savings on to you.

ADMINISTRATION 845-896-9500   **MONITORING RESPONSE CENTER 845-897-1200**   **CATSKILL BRANCH 518-943-6777**

Halloween costume idea

costume-works.com

"My son wanted to be a smoke detector. And when I searched Pinterest for ideas, as one does, I realized that apparently he wasn't alone. So odd."

Common burglary myths debunked

Knowing the facts can help you protect your home

An estimated 2 million burglaries occur in the United States each year. However, when most of our ideas of break-ins are from Hollywood and video games, we need to look at the facts to make sure we're protecting our homes from facts and not myths.

One of the most important elements to your home security is layered protection. When you know the facts, you can ensure that you have the best protection for your home.

When do break-ins occur?

In movies and advertisements, breaks-ins occur during the dead of the night. With the darkness as cover, a burglar covertly enters a home. However, the majority of burglaries actually occur during the day. In fact, over 40% of break-ins occur during business hours. Only 35% of break-ins occur at night.

Another common myth is that you will be home during a break-in. Burglars do not want to meet people when they enter a home: they want as little trouble as possible. The average burglary is only eight minutes.

How does a burglar break-in?

Though it is a common belief that burglars break in through a window, doors are actually the most common point of entry.

Sixty percent of burglaries occur through a door – usually the front door. Almost 40% of break-ins through a door happen because the door was left opened or unlocked.

When windows are the entry point to a home, the window pane is most often broken -- 61% of window break-ins include breaking glass.

Glass break sensors are an important layer of protection for your home.

It's unlikely a break-in will happen through a basement or a garage. These access points account for just 13% of break-ins.

What is most often stolen?

The most commonly stolen items are electronics. Sensors should be placed in the room with your TV and computer, and in rooms with any other items you wish to protect.

Many people assume that firearms are one of the most common items stolen, but firearms are only stolen 2% of the time.

If you would like more information about adding protection to your home, contact our sales offices.

CIA helps to reel in the fish at Catfish Derby

CIA Security contributed to entry fees for 20 individuals with special needs for the 6th Annual United Way "Leo Lasher" Catfish Derby this summer. The event provided a day of fishing to those who seldom get the opportunity.

"The Catfish Derby is the largest local fund raiser that funds local non-profits in Columbia and Greene Counties", said Brad Poster, Executive Director of United Way of Columbia and Greene Counties and CIA Salesman. Poster said the event has grown from 38 people to almost 400 registered fishermen in the six years it has been held.