



Security Newsletter – September 2009

So, a little over a month has past since our first newsletter on our brand new website. We have continued to see signs of economic recovery in our area, but realize it will be a long road back. Atlantic Security Systems is still healthy and ready to take on the challenges of the country's recovery.

Last month we talked about security systems in general, and what to look for and look out for when shopping around. This month, let's talk about new and emerging technology.

Many of you have at least thought about getting rid of your land-line telephone. If you have a monitored security system, you have an additional consideration as 99% of systems use the telephone line to signal an alarm.

Now there are options. Additional equipment such as Cellular Radio and Internet Modules can be added to most systems to "untie" you from the need for the land-line.

Cellular Radio uses the communication "backbone" that the cellular companies use to control their systems. So there is no telephone number as with a cell phone. The only limitation for this system is its transmission format. The industry standard is called SMS (Short Message Services) and is used by GSM (Global System for Mobile communication) cellular operators. The problem in our area is that the dominant provider, especially in the more rural areas, Alltel (now Verizon) uses a format called CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access). While it appears that this technology is superior to SMS, it is a more complex format and manufacturers have been slow to adopt it. What this means is that if you are thinking about converting your system to a Cellular Radio, it is imperative that a signal strength test is done first.

Internet Connection Module converts the internal system communications into a type of signal that can be transmitted via the Internet. So, if you have high-speed internet, this may be for you. However, unless you have a wireless (not the same thing as a wireless home network) connection to the Internet, which is rare, your communications are still vulnerable. *Call us for the particulars of these possibilities.* This option is only available for Ademco or Honeywell systems, for all other brands a system upgrade will be necessary.

So, to summarize, if you are in an area that has the proper cellular coverage, you are much better off to select Cellular Radio. The installation cost for the Cellular Radio is \$285.00 and the Internet Connection Module is \$235.00. Both will add \$10.00 per month to your monitoring fee. But, if you can free yourself from the land-line costs, the payback period in most cases will be less than one year.

Now you know more than you ever wanted to know about cell phone technology and what it means to your security system. Now for something fun, I hope you all like jokes!

Two Ladies Talking in Heaven

1st woman: Hi! My name is Wanda.

2nd woman: Hi! I'm Sylvia. How'd you die?

1st woman: I froze to death.

2nd woman: How horrible!

1st woman: It wasn't so bad. After I quit shaking from the cold, I began to get warm & sleepy, and finally died a peaceful death. What about you?

2nd woman: I died of a massive heart attack.. I suspected that my husband was cheating, so I came home early to catch him in the act. But instead, I found him all by himself in the den watching TV.

1st woman: So, what happened?

2nd woman: I was so sure there was another woman there somewhere that I started running all over the house looking. I ran up into the attic and searched and down into the basement. Then I went through every closet and checked under all the beds. I kept this up until I had looked everywhere, and finally I became so exhausted that I just keeled over with a heart attack and died.

1st woman: Too bad you didn't look in the freezer---we'd both still be alive.

See you next month,

Mike Krauss