



## Security Newsletter

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.