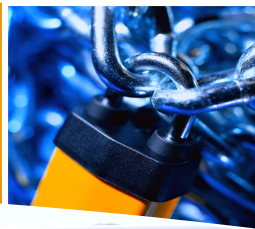


Statewide Security
31 Years of Service
July 2010



Security News

Burglar and Fire detection, Video Surveillance, Access Control, Gate Automation

INTERESTING SCAMS: The criminals try but lets out smart them!

A phone call received by a monitored client seemed suspicious so she asked for a call back number because of the questions the caller was asking. She called the "800" number given by the "alarm company" who had offered to install a free alarm system in her home. After several tries she discovered it was not registered to any alarm company. The suspicious caller was going through random phone numbers trying to determine who actually had an alarm in their home. If they did have an alarm, they also asked what their address was and if it was actually monitored. If they didn't have an existing alarm system the caller offered to come out to do an inspection. In this case our client was careful what information she provided and didn't divulge any private information. Sometimes it's amazing what people will tell a perfect stranger over the phone particularly if they are caught off guard and aren't focused on the call. It's easy to pick up the phone while making dinner or getting ready to go out and not pay close attention to the questions and just give out answers.

The top scams today all involve phishing for your personal information on the Internet and identify theft scams. The average loss for a full blown ID theft is over \$100,000 and it takes an average of 2,000 hours for you to repair your credit. Every time you think you have it cleared up you get a call that somebody in Minnesota opened a credit account at a furniture store using your Social Security number, date of birth and your credit card. We recommend that you

get a cross cut shredder for bills, a locking mailbox and that your tax records get stored in a safe to protect them from intruders, vendors and child care providers you invite into your home. We cannot be too trusting any more.

These scams could not exist as long as they do without the unwitting help from consumers who respond to these bogus e-mails, faxes and phone calls. Have you received an e-mail or fax from someone whose father has \$300 million dollars in a Nigerian bank and just needs to wire all \$300 million to your account to get it out of the country and would be very pleased to split the booty with you? Have you received an e-mail that claims to be from Bank of America, Chase, Wells Fargo or US Bank stating that they need to verify your account passwords because of a security breach? These look quite official but your bank will never ask these questions over the Internet or call you and ask these questions. We have gotten the Nigerian bank requests hundreds of times and the bank information requests sometimes every month!

In December of 2009 someone in Russia used a Statewide Security Diners credit card number to order electronics from a vendor in Canada. We cancelled that card and were issued anew one, and two days later a new charge for \$2.90 was placed on the new card from the New England area just to test to see if it was OK. Diners fraud alert caught and rejected the charge.

Intruder Alert:

In late May 2010, one of our monitored clients woke up to their alarm ringing at 4:30 AM. The client jumped out of bed and disarmed the alarm assuming that it was a "false" alarm. That is when she discovered that there were two men in her house; her sleeping husband and someone else she didn't know. Night time burglaries of occupied residences are no longer an isolated act, it is becoming common and the potential for these to escalate beyond an economic crime into violent assault or murder is very high.

Unfortunately her original alarm company had not installed window contacts on any of the ground floor windows and the burglar pried a casement window apart to gain entry into the home. Casement windows have hinges on one side and usually a crank handle to swing the window open and closed. This is an unusual means of gaining entry and since there was no immediate alarm, the client had no idea how long the intruder was in the home, where he went and what his primary intentions were. The client's husband discovered that his defense planning needed some review. This is the second actual burglary in the past ten days for clients and the third night time burglary while clients were home in the past two years. *Additionally we want to warn clients with casement windows that they may want a review of glass break and perimeter sensors for their homes and businesses. We make these inspections and reviews at **no** charge.*

Home Invasions:

In our last newsletter three months ago we predicted that home invasions would continue to increase. A week after we mailed it out, a local man was murdered by four home invaders. A number of other violent intrusions occurred here too. We would like to help you develop a set of tactics to survive an invasion. Females as crimi-

nal participants are also becoming more involved in home invasions so don't assume that a woman ringing your doorbell means you can let your guard down. *Do you have a response plan or do you just assume this could never happen to you? Call me and we can discuss ways to improve or set up your plan.*

Art Theft Potential:

Many of our clients have substantial art work and we want you to know that there appears to be at least two groups targeting homes with expensive collections. A Federal Agency arrested a team in the Northwest a couple months ago and they indicated there could be another group working the area as well. We have a wireless art tamper monitor that can detect art movement independent of your alarm system's armed status. If you have vendors in your home or a party this can allow you to know if anything is being moved or taken off the wall. Call our office and I will make a service call to your home and evaluate how we can better secure your treasured art pieces.

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Generator Service:

We all had a fairly light winter and often this means next winter will have much heavier than normal snow fall and wild weather. Call us to service the generator; we will remove the old gas from your generator before it gums up the carburetor, install fresh oil and do a function test. Preparing now means you will only have to buy fresh gas in the fall to be ready for the winter storm season and the resulting power outages. Customers went 5 to 15 days without power the last bad storm season a few years ago, take steps to avoid being with out power.