

Alarm Response Management Committee Update

The Alarm Management Committee continues its work throughout Minnesota to promote responsible alarm management in the communities we serve. The Minnesota Electric Security and Technology Association (MNESTA) has formed an alarm management committee working with the Security Industry Alarm Coalition (SIAC) and the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA). The committee serves as resource for you to address false alarms and ordinance issues related to alarm systems. Committee members are available to speak at your regional or department meetings, offer you information on alarm users' classes and assist you with alarm ordinance and false alarm information. We also have alarm-user brochures available for you to distribute in the communities you serve.

Most recently we have worked with members (and non-members) addressing ordinance changes in the City of Duluth. The ordinance that passed had elements that not only would impact alarm companies conducting business in the city, but also unnecessarily encumber the consumers. Through the efforts of the committee and the alarm companies serving Duluth, we were able to come to an agreement with the city that is reasonable and enforceable. Another positive outcome is the city agreed to form a standing committee to address future alarm concerns and to keep the dialogue open between alarm companies, consumers and the city.

We held our first of several regional police officer training seminars. This class was held in partnership with SIAC, MNESTA and MCPA and was approved to fill officer training credits. The seminar was held January 27, 2010, in St. Peter, Minnesota, with over 20 attendees. The seminar included an overview of successful and sustained alarm reduction initiatives and programs, the Model Ordinance and suggestions on using the Alarm Committee as a resource for designing and/or revising alarm ordinance and alarm reduction programs. The next seminar is scheduled for May 19, 2010, in Chaska. We welcome any MNESTA members to participate - this is a great opportunity to network with the police that serve the communities of your customers.

The MCPA Expo was on April 12-14 held in St Cloud, Minnesota. MNESTA exhibited at the Expo and shared information on the alarm committee, scholarship opportunities and information about the association. We also presented the first alarm management award for false alarm reduction to the City of Elk River. Elk River had a 37 percent decrease in false alarms after implementing Enhanced Call Verification and revising the city alarm ordinance in which the Model Ordinance was used as the foundation.

Please contact a committee member if you have any comments or would like to get involved with alarm management.

Wendy Makousky
ARM Committee