



Providing excellent service by interacting and pinpointing the needs of our customers & expediting the process so our customers can have resolution and get back to their own schedules.

SUMMER 2018

Visit our website at:
www.foothillfireandwire.com

IN THIS ISSUE:

We hope you have enjoyed our previous newsletters. We will do our best to keep our newsletters relevant to what our customers are wanting to learn. Don't forget to email us regarding topics you would like us to cover. We are listening!

New alarm tax incentives!

Beginning in 2018, the new tax law signed into law in December 2017 will allow many businesses to write off full cost for new security, fire protection and alarm systems for the tax year they were placed into service, up to a total of \$1 million which was not eligible prior to the new law.

For the first time, security systems, fire protection and alarm systems are now treated as property under the law despite being considered building improvements.

There are 2 very large benefits to you as the consumer:

- After-tax, system cost is reduced by offsetting it with the tax savings generated.
- Accelerated depreciation provides additional cash flow by freeing up money today that could be used for another purpose important to your business.

Please note the property must be purchased and put into service in the year in which the deduction is claimed. Also, when replacing an old system, any remaining depreciation can be deducted in the tax year it is replaced.

A list of qualifying devices and further detail is listed in the below link:

<https://www.securityindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/SIA-Tax-Factsheet-FINAL.pdf>

Still using phone lines?

Many people have cut the phone line cord at home. Wouldn't it only make sense to cut the cord elsewhere?

Rumor in the fire alarm industry is that the NFPA will eventually, terminate the use of landlines to monitor fire alarm systems.

Traditional analog phone lines are nearly extinct and the ones that are still available can typically be very expensive. The alternative to plain old telephone analog lines are internet based phone lines (Voice-over Internet Provider) such as Comcast or Wave. These VoIP phone lines are typically incompatible with alarm systems.

When an alarm transmits a signal, a large string of numbers is sent out. This string of numbers includes but is not limited to, your account number and zone number that has been activated. This is how our dispatchers know what account is receiving the signal and what the signal is.

With VoIP phone lines, this long strand of numbers gets scrambled and if the monitoring center even receives a call, they would not know which account or which zone is having an issue.

For these reasons, if your alarm is currently being monitored via telephone lines we would highly recommend looking into a wireless option.

With the wireless alarm monitoring you can:

- Have peace of mind knowing your property is better protected.
- Save money every month by not having the additional cost of multiple phone lines.
- Spend less money on service calls as the wireless systems are much more reliable.

Contact our office for a free proposal to upgrade your fire and security alarms to digital cellular wireless options.



New alarm tax incentives!

Learn more about the new tax law allows many businesses to write off full cost of alarm systems.

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Still using phone lines?

Let us help you ditch phone lines connected to your fire alarm to better protect your property.

Page 1



When to change batteries

Learn when batteries must be changed and the steps to make sure your batteries are up to code.

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When to change your batteries

We get asked a lot about how often batteries should get changed. Depending on what device the battery is powering will depend on how often a battery should be changed.

Smoke detectors that are connected to a fire alarm system are not powered by batteries they are powered by the wires that connect to the panel. This means, that with these smoke detectors, there is no battery changing.

Smoke detectors that are not connected to a fire alarm could possibly have batteries. It is recommended that these batteries get changed once per year.

As part of our annual inspections, our inspector will do a load test on all fire alarm panel and power supply batteries. This load test will ensure that the batteries are up to proper requirement. Our inspector will also check the last date of installation on the battery. Per NFPA, all fire alarm batteries must be changed by 5 years since last replacement. By replacing batteries during a fire alarm inspection we can waive a service call charge saving your property at minimum \$125.00.

Fire alarm control panel batteries are not as easily replaced as other batteries and it is recommended that your location requests a service call from our service department to change these batteries. Incorrect installation of batteries to a fire alarm control panel can permanently damage a fire alarm panel resulting in thousands of dollars in repairs.

If your power goes out, your fire and/or security alarm will work for 24 hours on backup battery. The panel may then show a "Low Batt" trouble. If you see this trouble on your panel, this is normal. Please allow up to 24 hours for the panel to re-charge the battery. If you still show the "Low Batt" trouble 24 hours after the power has been restored, please call our office to request a service call.

OS&Y Supervisory Condition?

To understand OS&Y trouble you must understand what the OS&Y is. See the picture below:

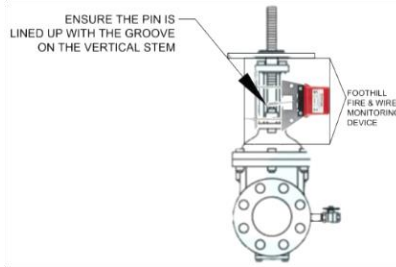


A commonly used valve to control waterflow to a fire sprinkler system is known as an

Outside Stem & Yoke, OS&Y also known as a double check valve. OS&Y gate valves operate by opening and closing via a gate, which lowers into or rises out of the valve by turning the wheels on top.

When the valve has been opened or closed, our monitoring center will be sent a signal alerting the responsible parties that this device has been tampered with.

If you are experiencing OS&Y supervisory signal the first thing you want to check is if the pin from our monitoring device is sitting within the groove of the vertical stem. (See drawing below)



After you have realigned the pin with the groove, please reset your panel by pressing the reset button. If there is no reset button, please press 12341 12341 to reset.

If you have followed the steps above and are still having OS&Y supervisory signals, please call our office to request a service call.

Limitations of Storage

Your fire control room or electrical room may look like the perfect storage room but please be aware, there are limits on how and what can be stored here.

Storage is not permitted in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms, electrical rooms, exit passageways, stairways and corridors.

The requirement to maintain a certain amount of clearance in front of all electrical panels (which includes the fire alarm panel) is found in NFPA 70 National Electrical Code (NEC). The actual distance required for clearance is found in Table 110-26(a) of the NEC and is required to have a 36-inch clearance around electrical panels.

Please ensure that this code is enforced at all times.

For general storage purposes, sprinklered buildings must have a minimum 18" clearance from the ceiling to top of storage. Non-sprinklered buildings must have a minimum 24" clearance between ceiling and top of storage.



OS&Y Supervisory Condition?

Learn what an OS&Y is and what to do should there be a supervisory signal?

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Limitations of Storage

Your fire control room may look like a great closet for storage but learn the facts before you store.

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Contact Numbers:

24-Hour Monitoring Center
800-497-0496

Foothill Fire & Wire, Office
916-774-9473

Emma's Corner:

Fire sprinkler emergency?
Contact California Fire & Safety
For quick and reliable service
844-237-3473



Emma Titus,
Company Mascot