



## Information for Alarm Users

Provided as a Public Service by the False Alarm Reduction Association- [www.faraonline.org](http://www.faraonline.org)

### Include Your Alarm System in Your Disaster Plan

Regardless of where you live in North America, disaster can strike your neighborhood. Whether natural or man-made, we are all vulnerable to disruptions in our lives. Be proactive; know what to do before the disaster hits. Work out a plan with your alarm company, public safety agency, family and friends.

#### Do I Live or Do Business in an Area Subject to Particular Disasters?



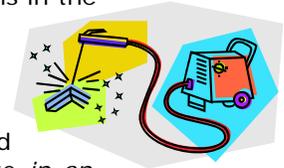
affect your area.

First, obtain information about the natural disaster history of the area in which you live or do business. Earthquake, flood, tornado, fire, hurricane, severe wind, ice or snow or combinations of these come at us from Mother Nature. Industrial fires, building collapses, terrorist attacks, transportation accidents and other events come from human activity. Check with your local emergency management agency for information on disasters that may

#### Effects of Disasters on Alarm Systems

If you are required to evacuate due to a disaster, do you have a plan in place to avoid potential false alarms from your alarm system? Taking a few simple steps *before* a disaster occurs will help to avoid potential problems and the uncertainty that comes when you are required to make quick decisions in the face of a disaster.

- If you install a generator to prepare for power outages, discuss with your alarm company how to connect the alarm system, as well as the procedures to follow *before* a disaster occurs.
- Ensure that your contact list and information is always kept current. You should contact your alarm company at least once per year to update. If you relocate *in an emergency*, contact your alarm company with phone numbers of where you can be reached and provide them with the phone number of a contact person outside the immediate area, if available.



#### When You Get Back

When you are able to safely return to your home or business, you may have to deal with a multitude of issues. One of those will be what to do with your alarm system. If your area has experienced power outages, when the power restores, it may cause a false alarm.

- Before reconnecting or activating your alarm system, *contact your alarm company*.
- Depending on the disaster, it may be necessary to replace the alarm system battery.
- Schedule an inspection of your alarm system.
- Check sensors for water damage, lightning strikes, etc.

#### General Safety Measures



If you are advised to evacuate, **DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. Waiting could truly mean the difference between life and death.

Prepare your home or business with a supply of food and water, as well as medicines and first aid supplies, flashlights, a battery operated radio and batteries. Don't forget to make provisions for your pets. (Remember that pets are usually not permitted in public evacuation shelters.) Make sure that your important papers are protected in a safe deposit box and have copies to take with you if you have to evacuate. Be sure that family members, who may live in other areas of the country, are aware of what you will do in the event of an evacuation.

Public safety agencies generally have policies and procedures in place for when a disaster occurs. Know what those policies and procedures are and what you can expect in terms of response to alarm activations for both burglar and fire alarm systems. Understand that given the severity of the disaster, public safety agencies may not be able to respond to alarm activations.