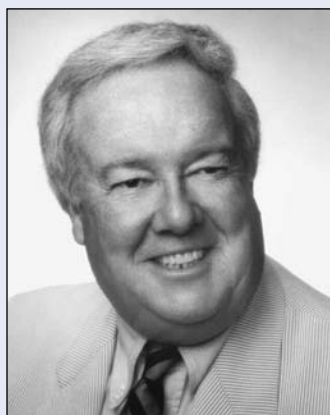




Boyd Bugle

UNIFORMED GUARDS • CENTRAL STATION ALARMS • CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS • SECURITY PATROL

Message From Our C.E.O.



Raymond G. Boyd, C.E.O.
Boyd & Associates

HOLIDAY THEFTS ARE A REALITY

By Raymond G. Boyd

My "old Irish mother" was prone to say, "After you pass sixty-five years of age, it's like Christmas comes three times a year." Whether you feel that way or not, the holiday season is again upon us.

Boyd & Associates has an Investigation Division and until March and April of the following year we are cleaning up the crimes our clients suffer over the holidays. One large national chain hires lots of Christmas season part-timers. Well, "What's wrong with that?" you may ask? The answer is, they allow these unscreened, hastily hired folks to be cashiers!

In preparation for this article, I researched our experience with this account. We handle 29 stores. Over the past 10 years we have apprehended on average seven

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Autumn Colors Abound!

747 "OVERLAY" APPROVED FOR 818 AREA CODE

All customers with an 818 area code telephone number will have to change the way they dial. The new 747 area code will serve customers in the same geographic region as the current 818 area code, which includes communities in the San Fernando Valley, and small parts of Pasadena and Thousand Oaks. This is known as an area code overlay.

Beginning October 11, 2008, anyone with an 818 number should begin using the new dialing procedure whenever they place a call from the 818 area code. This means that all calls in the 818 area code that are currently dialed with seven digits will need to be dialed using 1 + area code + telephone number.

Beginning April 18, 2009, you must use the new dialing procedure for all calls. After this date, if you do not use the new dialing procedure, your call will not be completed, and a recording will instruct you to hang up and dial again.

AN URGENT MESSAGE FOR BOYD & ASSOCIATES ALARM CUSTOMERS: In order to comply with the new dialing procedures in the 818 area code, your alarm system may need to be reprogrammed to properly dial the 1 + area code + telephone number prior to the deadline of April 18, 2009.

Please contact our Service Department soon at (800) 381-BOYD to set up an appointment to reprogram your alarm system.

Visit us on the web at www.boydsecurity.com

Boyd & Associates • 6319 Colfax Avenue • North Hollywood, CA 91606 • (800) 381-BOYD (2693)

NORTH HOLLYWOOD • OXNARD • PALM DESERT • SANTA ANA

Message from Our C.E.O
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employees per year and the majority during the holiday season. Interesting, but how does that affect readers of this article?

You may stop by my client's store one morning and utilize your American Express card. And you probably go into that store two or three times during the holiday buying season. In January, your American Express bill arrives and you have three charged amounts at my client's store. Gee, did you go in the store two, three or more times during December? Upon careful research, you determine that you went in twice. So, why the third charge? The second time you went shopping there, the cashier sensed you were a fairly regular customer and he ran your card twice. Later, on the extra charge slip he filled in an amount close to what your earlier purchase amounted to; he put the slip in the register and pocketed the money.

It is amazing how many people glance at their monthly statement and figure that the amount is about right and pay it without further question. Stay sharp! You might be contributing \$65+ to a thief's holiday stash. Every year, however, there are always a couple of sharp-eyed folks who complain... and another thief is caught. The thief's confession always indicates far more theft than we actually knew about. Some indifferent customers always get victimized.



Reminder

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 2, 2008. It's time to "fall back", so set your clocks back one hour!

It's also good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors, rotate the water and food supplies in your family's Disaster Supplies Kit, and test your alarm system!

HOW TO AVOID FALSE ALARMS



Locking Up

Make sure all sliding glass doors and windows are shut tightly and locked. They may appear shut, but might not be latched. A slight movement of the door or window could cause a false alarm.

Always lock all doors and windows when you leave your home, and remember to arm your security system.

Pets

Restrict your pets to an area where they will not activate the alarm while you are gone. Motion sensors and unlocked doors are of special concern.

House Guests or Workers

If you are having houseguests who are unfamiliar with your security system, you may want to bypass your interior motion sensors at night or leave your system disarmed.

If you are giving your door key to houseguests or workers, make sure they do not enter your home until they are sure the security system is no longer armed. You can also provide them with temporary access and abort codes (different from yours). Call your Central Station for assistance.

Explain to your guests how your security system operates and how to use their temporary code(s). Remind them not to move any furniture and to keep all external and internal doors closed. (These are two common causes of false alarms.) In case of a false alarm, the Central Station will call your home and ask for their temporary abort code. If they do not provide the correction information, the Central Station will dispatch the proper authorities to your home.

Test Your Security System

Test your security system monthly and, more particularly, a few days before you leave on a vacation or business trip. Be certain all devices are functioning properly. If they are not, call the service department to request a service call to locate and correct the problem.

Smoke Detectors

At least twice a year, hold a vacuum cleaner nozzle to your smoke detector. Dust build-up can cause a false alarm, as the smoke detector may read the dust as smoke.

Are Your Kids **HOME ALONE?**

There is nothing new about children being on their own at home. The phrase “latchkey children” actually originated in the early 1800’s, when youngsters who were responsible for their own care wore the key to their home tied on a string around their necks. With the increasing number of parents who work these days, there are more children who are at home alone after school, and many who care for younger siblings, too.

While many kids readily accept the added responsibility of caring for themselves, others are lonely, bored or scared. Working parents can use this experience to teach their children the various aspects of safety and crime prevention, while endeavoring to build the child’s self-esteem, confidence and competence, thereby ensuring that both parents and children are comfortable with the “latchkey” situation.

Here are useful tips to help parents equip their children to be latchkey kids:

- If you have a security system in your home, teach your child how to properly operate the system. When the child returns home from school, they can set the alarm in the “stay at home” mode.
- Ask a trustworthy neighbor or nearby relative for assistance in case your child loses their key.
- Teach your child what to do if a stranger approaches them on the way home or comes to the door.
- Set up “house rules” by establishing firm rules regarding chores, homework, and use of the phone, the computer and kitchen appliances. Post them where everyone can see them and review them periodically.
- Keep a list of emergency telephone numbers beside each phone. If your child has a cell phone, be sure to program these numbers into their phone.
- With the help of your child, assemble a “first aid kit” and explain what each item is used for.
- Institute an “evacuation plan” in the event of a fire and routinely practice the plan with the kids.
- When your child arrives home from school, have them check in with someone to verify that they made it home safely.
- Set up an instruction book for your child to use that discusses any scenario you can think of that your child might encounter, and place it where your child can easily access it for reference.

If you don’t have a home security system, consider installing one for the protection of your children and your home. **Call Boyd & Associates at (800) 381-BOYD for a free security survey.**

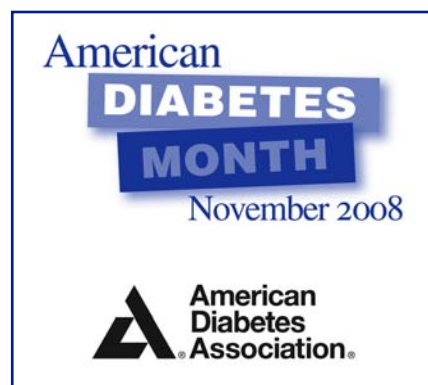


Many kids readily accept the added responsibility of caring for themselves.

November is American Diabetes Month

November is American Diabetes Month®, a time to communicate the seriousness of diabetes and the importance of proper diabetes control. This year, ADM focuses on the deadly complications of diabetes and asks the American public “Why should you care about diabetes?” Throughout the month, the American Diabetes Association leverages opportunities both nationally and locally to raise awareness about diabetes and its serious complications such as heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness and amputations.

For more information about diabetes or to find out how you can become involved in the fight against diabetes, visit www.diabetes.org.



HOW TO TEST YOUR ALARM SYSTEM

It is very important to test your security system. We recommend you test your system at least once a month. If you feel that your system isn't working properly, contact your alarm service department immediately.

One of the best ways to test your system is to pretend you're a burglar. Follow these guidelines:

- Contact your Central Station, properly identify yourself, and let the operator know you are about to test the system.
- Arm your system and leave the premises. Make sure you allow enough time for the system to arm itself.
- Notify any concerned neighbors that you are about to test your alarm system.
- Now enter the premises, open doors, walk around, test the system and activate the various sensors.
- When satisfied—disarm the system, contact your Central Station again, and ask for the test results. The Central Station should receive signals indicating what zones you have activated. When you are finished testing the system, notify the operator that you want to take the system off Test.

These are general guidelines. If you have specific questions regarding your system, please contact your Service Department. Frequent testing is vital to maintain a secure home or business.

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