



Boyd Bugle

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

Message From Our C.E.O.

Tribute to an Old Friend

By Raymond G. Boyd

Each year Boyd & Associates conducts an annual planning meeting at a site removed from our offices. While a lot of work is accomplished, it is a wonderful opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with the people we work with everyday. This year there will be an empty chair.



Kathy Correll, Longtime Employee and Friend of Boyd & Associates.

Kathy Correll, our Branch Manager in Ventura County for the past 15 years passed away August 2, 2009 after an extended battle with cancer.

A former deputy sheriff in San Luis Obispo County, Kathy later served the Martin V. Smith properties as Director of Security. She had more than 35 years of experience in law enforcement and private corporate security. Kathy interfaced daily with several Ventura County law enforcement agencies and was a certified instructor in high-rise fire/life safety. She worked closely with the Oxnard Fire Department to provide high-rise training techniques for individual firefighters.

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Burglary Thwarted!

Recently, a Boyd & Associates Central Station dispatcher received a "phone tamper" signal from a residence in South Orange County. She immediately dispatched the Orange County Sheriff's Department to the residence.

When Sheriff's arrived at the home minutes later, they discovered that burglars had attempted to cut the telephone wires in order to prevent the alarm system from sending a signal. Because the home was equipped with a "tamper" device, the alarm siren sounded which sent the burglars running and a signal was sent to our Central Station. They were later apprehended at a neighbor's home.

Thanks to the installation of the tamper device and the immediate action on the part of our Central Station dispatcher, this homeowner was spared the nightmare of coming home to find their home ransacked and their belongings stolen.

In addition to tamper devices, Boyd & Associates offers a number of other solutions to enhance the security of your home or business. One such solution is Cellular Back Up. In the event your telephone service is "down" or the telephone lines are cut, a cellular back up device will automatically send a signal to our Central Station when the alarm is activated.

Why not contact Boyd & Associates today to see how we can help protect your home or business.

Call 800-381-BOYD!



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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Kathy served on the boards of several community organizations. Each year Kathy donated her time and talents to provide security in the harbor area for the annual Christmas Boat Parade. A lifetime fan of professional football, Kathy led a cadre of Boyd & Associates security officers in providing security protection for the Oakland Raider's training facility in Oxnard. Later, she was able to switch her allegiance to the Dallas Cowboys.

Her favorite quote was "There are no problems, only opportunities in disguise." This attitude demonstrates why Kathy was such a valuable asset to our company. Everyone who ever had contact with Kathy immediately recognized her warm, helpful persona.

Our condolences go out to her family. Her Boyd & Associates family will miss her terribly.

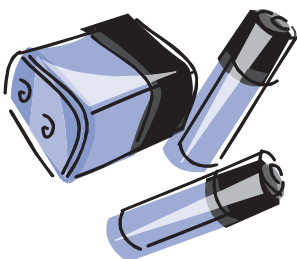


Reminder: Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1, 2009. It's time to "fall back", so set your clocks back one hour!

This is also a great 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!



Time to Change those Smoke Alarm Batteries!

Tips on Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention

According to the Centers for Disease Control, each year more than 20,000 people are treated in emergency rooms and nearly 400 lives are lost nationwide to carbon monoxide poisoning.

It is known as the Silent Killer because it is odorless, tasteless, colorless and toxic. It can poison the body quickly in high concentrations, or slowly over long periods of time. Home appliances are primary CO sources and the CDC reports that 64 percent of all carbon monoxide poisonings occur at home.

Oftentimes, carbon monoxide victims become confused and are unable to call for help. This is why it is so important for CO detectors in homes to be connected to a monitoring center with trained professionals operating 24/7 who can contact rescuers.

Here are some tips to help prevent carbon monoxide poisoning in your home:

- Never use portable electric generators, charcoal grills, camp stoves, or other similar devices inside your home, basement, or garage, or in any confined area that can allow carbon monoxide to collect. Follow usage directions closely.
- Have your chimney, fireplace, wood stoves, and flues inspected before every heating season and cleaned if necessary.
- Turn off space heaters before leaving a room or going to sleep and supervise children and pets at all times when a portable space heater is in use.
- Never run your car engine for more than a few moments inside a garage or other enclosed area, even if the door to the outside is open. Fumes can build up very quickly and can spread to the living area of your home.
- Look for clues that home appliances may be malfunctioning or emitting toxic gas. Common indicators to look for include: decreased hot water supply, soot on appliances and vents, increased moisture inside windows, and furnaces unable to heat properly.
- Install at least one carbon monoxide detector, connected to Boyd & Associates Central Station on every level of your home and near sleeping areas. Constant monitoring helps keep you safe from poisonous CO gas that can cause fatigue, dizziness, unconsciousness, and possible death if undetected.

Call Boyd & Associates today at **800-381-BOYD** to have a CO detector added to your system!

October 4 through 10, 2009 is National Fire Prevention Week

■ Commemorating a conflagration

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

According to popular legend, the fire broke out after a cow - belonging to Mrs. Catherine O'Leary - kicked over a lamp, setting first the barn, then the whole city on fire. Chances are you've heard some version of this story yourself; people have been blaming the Great Chicago Fire on the cow and Mrs. O'Leary, for more than 130 years. But recent research by Chicago historian Robert Cromie has helped to debunk this version of events.

■ The 'Moo' myth

Like any good story, the 'case of the cow' has some truth to it. The great fire almost certainly started near the barn where Mrs. O'Leary kept her five milking cows. But there is no proof that O'Leary was in the barn when the fire broke out - or that a jumpy cow sparked the blaze. Mrs. O'Leary herself swore that she'd been in bed early that night, and that the cows were also tucked in for the evening.

But if a cow wasn't to blame for the huge fire, what was? Over the years, journalists and historians have offered plenty of theories. Some blamed the blaze on a couple of neighborhood boys who were near the barn sneaking cigarettes. Others believed that a neighbor of the O'Leary's may have started the fire. Some people have speculated that a fiery meteorite may have fallen to earth on October 8, starting several fires that day - in Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as in Chicago.

■ The biggest blaze that week

While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on October 8, 1871, roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.

Historical accounts of the fire say that the blaze began when several railroad workers clearing land for tracks

unintentionally started a brush fire. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area 'like a tornado,' some survivors said. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed.

■ Eight decades of fire prevention

Those who survived the Chicago and Peshtigo fires never forgot what they'd been through; both blazes produced countless tales of bravery and heroism. But the fires also changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. The commemoration grew incrementally official over the years.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

■ This Year's Theme

The theme this year is "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned" Testing the water before putting a child in the bath may sound like common sense. Wearing short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking on the stovetop may show foresight. This and other simple actions may be all it takes to prevent devastating burns.

Fire Prevention Week 2009 focuses on burn awareness and prevention, as well as keeping homes safe from the leading causes of home fires.

For more information on ways you can help keep your home and family fire safe, visit the National Fire Prevention Association at www.nfpa.org and click the "Fire Prevention Week" link.



What is the Difference Between a "Regular" Smoke Detector and a Monitored, Low Voltage Version?



One of the many advantages of a monitored, low voltage smoke detector is that it is monitored through your existing burglar alarm system. In the event of a fire, or the presence of smoke, an activation signal is sent immediately to our Central Station. Additionally, a signal is also sent to our Central Station to indicate that the detector has lost power or is operating on a back-up battery.

By contrast, when a regular 120 volt smoke detector trips, it makes a loud noise to warn the occupants of the presence of smoke. If the power goes out, it will only last as long as the battery that you have installed in it (assuming it works).

Oftentimes, you will see homes that have two smoke detectors side-by-side...one is to meet the city codes and the other is connected to the alarm system (either hardwired or wireless).

120-volt smoke detectors can be monitored, but are not the best way to go. While devices exist that allow these detectors to be connected to your alarm system, this practice is not recommended. The reason being, when our Central Station receives a signal, there is no way to determine the exact location of or which detector has been activated. This is because 120 volt detectors are "daisy-chained" when wired. This means that each detector is connected to a single cable. With low voltage detectors, each device is wired directly to the control panel (or sends a wireless signal to the control panel) without any "sharing".

It can create a lot of frustration and wasted time for homeowners, the fire department and alarm technicians when trying to troubleshoot why an alarm occurred with any devices that have been "daisy-chained". We only know that there was an alarm, but not the specific location where it originated from.

By contrast, with monitored, low voltage detectors, our Central Station knows immediately that an alarm is coming from the master bedroom, the garage, etc. We then provide that information to the fire department when dispatching them to your home. This helps direct the fire department's efforts to save your home and your precious belongings.

False Alarm Issues

One of the most common reasons for a smoke detector tripping is something burning on the stove, and homeowners invariably end up disconnecting the 120 volt smoke detector closest to the kitchen. This is the very reason we recommend that those "regular" smoke detectors not be connected to the alarm system.

Instead, low voltage monitored smoke detectors should be installed outside of each bedroom, on the second floor, etc. and not near the kitchen.

What Should You Do?

1. Determine if your existing smoke detectors are monitored or not (call your alarm company to ask).
2. If your smoke detectors are more than three years old, consider replacing them... if they are more than five years old, definitely replace them.
3. If you only have 120 volt smoke detectors installed, consider adding monitored low voltage smoke detectors to your alarm system. They can be hardwired or wireless.

To find out more information regarding monitored smoke detectors, call Boyd & Associates today at **800-381-BOYD!**

Visit us on the web at www.boydsecurity.com

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