



Resolution of the False Alarm Reduction Association Regarding Cancel and Abort Signals

Objective: To express FARA's full support for the widespread and immediate implementation by all central monitoring stations and alarm companies of a procedure whereby no request for law enforcement dispatch is made when an abort or cancel signal is received.

Explanation:

Many alarm system control panels will send a cancel or abort signal if an authorized user enters a correct code to disarm (turn off) the alarm system after an alarm has been activated. In some cases, if the alarm is cancelled fast enough, the cancel or abort signal is the only signal sent to the central station. In other cases, the cancel or abort signal is sent after an alarm signal is sent. In either case, the cancel or abort signal is only sent if and when it is initiated by an authorized user at the alarm site. The alarm user may leave the alarm site or fail to answer the call to verify the alarm from the central station, because they assume that no further action is required of them when they use their code to cancel or abort the alarm.

Not requesting a law enforcement dispatch when an abort or cancel signal is received is a tool to reduce calls for service from alarm activations without reducing the crime deterrent and crime prevention benefits that alarm systems provide the community. Reducing dispatch requests frees up public safety resources, which can then be directed to crime prevention, community policing and homeland security initiatives without expending additional resources to do so. This procedure also reduces the costs to the alarm user since it avoids a false alarm fine or fee for an alarm that was cancelled by the alarm user.

Whereas, the FARA Board of Directors believes, for the reasons stated in the explanation above, that the effects of not requesting a law enforcement dispatch when an abort or cancel signal is received benefit all parties involved; i.e., public safety, the alarm industry and the alarm user; and

Whereas, one of the FARA's objectives is to reduce unnecessary false dispatches.

Now, Therefore, be it resolved that the FARA Board of Directors strongly encourages central monitoring stations and alarm companies to immediately adopt a procedure whereby no request for law enforcement dispatch is made when an abort or cancel signal is received.

Passed by unanimous consent of the undersigned Board of Directors of FARA this 27th day of April, 2007.

Norma Beaubien
James Cogswell
Stanley Hanson

Steve Heggemann
Kerri McDonald
Gerry Miller

Sally Shaffer
Joseph Patterson
Kathleen Schraufnagel