



Resolution of the False Alarm Reduction Association (FARA) Regarding Single-Action Panic Buttons Located on Key Fobs and Pendants

Objective: FARA statement resolving discontinuing the use of single-action panic buttons located on key fob and pendant devices which trigger silent and unverified alarm signals.

Explanation: Panic buttons, which are single-action, trigger silent and unverified alarm signals, and are located on a portable key fob or pendant device have been proven by law enforcement to cause a high incidence of false alarms. These alarms are responded to by law enforcement as a life-threatening emergency. This creates an undesirable, dangerous situation for both the alarm user and the law enforcement personnel.

Alarm users appreciate the convenience of arming and disarming their system remotely with a key fob device. In addition, many alarm users wear pendant panic buttons on necklaces. Unfortunately, some alarm manufacturers place a single-action panic button on these key fobs and pendants, which can be easily activated. Further, some alarm companies program the alarm signal from the fob or pendant to be silent, with immediate dispatch upon receipt of a signal. Key fobs regularly find their way into the hands of children, who regard the fobs as playthings and activate a false alarm. Pendants are easily activated when the wearer inadvertently bumps or presses them against an object.

Whereas, the FARA Board of Directors believes, for the reasons stated in the explanation above, that the negative attributes of a single-action panic button located on a key fob or pendant outweigh its positive attributes; and

Whereas, programming these devices as silent alarms with unverified signals further aggravates the situation; and

Whereas, one of the FARA's objectives is to reduce unnecessary false alarms;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved that the FARA Board of Directors encourages alarm companies to adopt policies which eliminate the offering of Single-Action Key Fob and Pendant Panic Buttons, which trigger silent and unverified alarm signals. If offered, Panic Key Fobs or Pendants should have recessed dual-action controls and be programmed to trigger an audible alarm. There should be a verification call made before dispatch is requested on all signals received from these devices.

Passed by unanimous consent of the undersigned Board of Directors of FARA.

Norma C. Beaubien, President
James Cogswell, 1st Vice President
W. Rex Bell, 2nd Vice President
Shanna Werner, Secretary
Richard L. Moore, Treasurer

Denise Shaw, At-Large Director
Amy Lobdell, At-Large Director
Marian Zavaglia, At-Large Director
Kathleen Schraufnagel, Associate Director