



SHOULD YOU INSTALL A HOME SECURITY SYSTEM?

What are the advantages of monitoring your own home security system?

Whether you live in a suburban type community or rural farming area, your home is most likely equipped with a security system especially if it was constructed within the last 20 years or less. Therefore, the questions most homeowners have is, "Should I pay to have my system monitored." There is not short answer for that question. My advice is to evaluate the process that occurs when your home alarm system is triggered, then decide if you feel safe and secure with your alarm vendor's callout protocol in conjunction with your local law enforcement agencies alarm response policies.

Considering the average U.S. city can receive up to several hundred alarm calls per day, alarm response policies are often very structured and restrictive to the point that you are left wondering, "What am I paying for exactly?" Many homeowners have already done this type of research and the answers led them to embrace modern technology in the home security industry. For them, the answer is to cut out the middle man, and install a self-monitoring home security system.

What is a self-monitored, or non-monitored security system exactly?

A non-monitored security system is one that does not have a monthly fee because there isn't a central monitoring station or alarm vendor monitoring your home for you. Instead, you are monitoring your own security system. This usually means that your smartphone is connected to your security system, so you get notifications when a motion sensor is triggered or a door is opened. Your smart phone then gives you the ability to view live footage and determine whether or not there is an actual break in. Being able to monitor your own live security footage has advantages. If the burglary is legitimate, the call type changes priority from a simple alarm call to a burglary in progress. If you are away from your home at the time of the break in, you can even have a friend or co-worker call 911 for you while you provide up to date suspect descriptions and current location status to the 911 dispatcher. This allows the dispatcher to memo the information into the call for responding officers.

"I'm interested, where do I begin?"

If you decide to evaluate your current home security system to determine whether or not a self-monitoring system is right for you, our advice is to be very thorough with your research. Research articles, and consult all friends and family members who are currently using a self-monitoring system before you decide to make any changes as the market is pretty saturated with various options. A good start is the hyperlink from Reviews.com.

<http://www.reviews.com/home-security-systems/diy/>

For more information about crime in your area contact:

Neighborhood Watch (North): CSO Sean Raines. Phone: 209-937-8796. Email: Sean.Raines@stocktonca.gov

Neighborhood Watch (South): CSO Andrea Castro. Phone: 209-937-5479. Email: Andrea.Castro@stocktonca.gov

Business Watch: CSO Curtice Ervin. Phone: 209-937-7283. Email: Curtice.Ervin@stocktonca.gov

Crime Free Multi-Housing: CSO Sy Truong. Phone: 209-937-7255. Email: Sy.Truong@stocktonca.gov