

Redundant Alarm Communications A Product and Service Update!

Several years ago Damar Security Systems as well as many of the more technically advanced alarm companies recognized the need to improve the security alarm reporting capabilities of intrusion and fire alarm monitoring systems.

As a result of print, radio and television advertising by certain unscrupulous alarm companies the criminal element quickly learned how to defeat alarm communication capabilities. While many alarm companies chose to not advise their customers of the vulnerability of their telephone lines, we at Damar Security Systems adopted a policy of full disclosure to enable our customers to make informed decisions about their protection.

We partnered with the AlarmNet Division of Honeywell Inc. to provide a service that utilized the control channel of the analogue cellular telephone network.



As we are all aware, digital technology has advanced over the last few years and one area that has experienced the greatest growth is the Cellular Telephone Industry. We also know of the explosive growth in the number of cellular telephone users – growth that has well exceeded the expectations of the cellular service providers.

As a result of this growth in users and the advances in digital technology the cellular service providers (Rogers Wireless and Mobility Canada (Bell)) have made a decision to migrate their services to the Digital Cellular Telephone Network and to recover the radio frequency bandwidth being used by the analogue systems. The Canadian cellular service providers are following the lead of their counterparts in the United States where a decision was made by the Federal Communications Commission that starting in February of 2008 the United States Cellular providers may start to decommission (shut down) the analogue telephone network.

Because the analogue cellular network will be shut down some time after February 2008 we must prepare for the transition to the digital network. Damar Security Systems has literally hundreds of redundant reporting radios that must be replaced within the next fourteen or so months

At this point in time, the security alarm industry is just starting to see alarm capable products on the digital cellular networks.

Damar Security Systems will be continuing our long term relationship with the Honeywell AlarmNet service thru the incorporation of the new Honeywell Model 7845-gsm Cellular Alarm Communicators into our alarm signaling network.

Why Honeywell? Honeywell products are designed with the future in mind. The new Honeywell 7845-gsm will actually provide two alternative methods of communication via radio, GPRS as the primary communication path and utilizing SMS as a secondary path if the GPRS is unavailable. This will provide greater reliability and we will be able to offer greater data communications capabilities in the future.

What is GPRS? General Radio Packet Service was created specifically for data transmission and as such has a high priority in the cellular network in high traffic times. This is true data communications that allows us to receive extremely detailed information about the condition and the activities of your security alarm system.

What is SMS? Simple Message Service is text messaging over the digital cellular telephone network and will communicate alarm signals in the form of text messages to our signal receiving center. This is an excellent backup to the GRPS primary reporting.

What does this mean to customers?: In very simple terms, sometime in the next two years (perhaps as early as February 2008) the presently installed redundant radio transmitters will become useless and will have to be replaced. We estimate that the total installation and programming time for each radio will be approximately two hours. Our technicians will have the capability of decommissioning the existing radio and enrolling the replacement radio over the internet so the conversions can be done in the evening for the convenience of our residential security customers. We are planning at replacing three or four radios every day commencing in early January 2007.

Damar Security Preparations: Damar Security Systems has been on the leading edge of the new product development with the Honeywell AlarmNet design team in Syosset New York and we are now fully ready to receive signals originating from the new digital 7845-gsm radios. This has come at a significant cost in manpower and equipment but we feel that the importance of this conversion warrants the effort for our customers.

At this time (December 2006) there is no product available for installation in Canada. We are in the process of contacting our customers to advise them of the impending conversion and upgrade to the Digital Cellular Communicators (DCC.)