

Over the years, the number of burglar alarms in the United States has increased exponentially. Unfortunately, poor quality of some alarm systems, inadequate maintenance and testing and, in some cases, antiquated technology have contributed to overwhelming numbers of false alarms every year. According to studies cited by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, 38 million false alarms occur annually, representing 95 to 99% of all alarm activations. Alarm activations are the number one call for service and account for nearly ten percent of all police responses each year. Compounding the problem are tight budget restrictions on municipal, county and state governments. Police departments want to respond but have to prioritize.

We hear it from Pharmacists Mutual Customers across the country – the alarm rings but nobody shows up. In a growing number of cities, including Detroit, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, San Jose and Milwaukee, police are assigning burglary alarm calls to the lowest priority or not responding at all. When police response takes over 15 minutes, the possibility of interrupting a crime in progress is negligible. Criminals are not pressured to get in and out quickly. More time = more property damage and more drugs and cash taken.

Police will place the highest priority on violent crimes and crimes in progress. Being able to verify that an alarm is real indicates a crime is in fact occurring, and police will respond.

Technology is now available that provides the verification police departments need for faster response. Videofied® combines alarm sensors and cameras on a MotionViewer to provide immediate alarm verification for faster response. When the alarm activates, the central monitoring station receives a short video clip of whatever, or whomever set the alarm off. If they view perpetrators, the alarm company can notify police that a crime is in progress. If requested, they can provide video evidence.

- Videofied® can be adapted to existing alarm installations or as a new system
- The MotionViewer cameras are wireless and can be installed anywhere in the building, on roofs, and outside the property
- For situations where employee diversion is suspected, cameras can be installed covertly and even placed in security cabinets and safes
- The system can be armed/disarmed by traditional alarm keypad, smartphone, remote or proximity card reader

For more information about the technology, to see videos of actual incidents and the location of dealers near you, visit www.videofied.com . Videofied® has also established a dedicated line for Pharmacists Mutual customers. If you have questions or would like to locate a dealer near you, please call 651-855-7890 .

For questions about this article, or to discuss general burglary and robbery prevention, please contact Pharmacists Mutual Risk Management at 515.395.7229 or by e-mail at loss.control@phmic.com.