



## EARLY TO BED, EARLY TO RISE...

Last year we were awarded a project to design and supply the fire alarm and occupant notification system for a new automotive assembly plant in Detroit. One of the challenges with large industrial spaces is designing the speaker system to overcome the relatively loud environment. On a previous project we had used a new speaker (HyperSpike) in a similar facility, and learned a lot from that experience. On the previous project we had used an omni-directional speaker, which basically directs sound in every direction from the speaker. On this project, we selected a directional HyperSpike speaker to obtain a more uniform sound level throughout the plant, and actually use fewer speakers. Typically on a fire alarm installation, the equipment cost is 25 - 30% of the installed cost, with the bulk of the expense in the installation labor. Consequently, if we can improve the sound level and have fewer devices to install, the labor savings cover the higher cost of the high intensity speakers.

Typically large plants have an evacuation plan, and employees report to designated muster points outside the facility so that everyone can be accounted for. We generally add a fire alarm speaker in the vicinity of the muster points so that any messages or the all clear signal can be heard at the muster point. I believe we had about 8 speakers around the plant buildings directed at the muster points.

The electrical contractor completed the installation, and we needed to go through the system and test all the components, including the speakers, prior to contacting the City inspectors for a final inspection. The plant management didn't want to disturb the construction work going on inside the plant, so they requested we perform the speaker testing between 4am and 7am. That meant a pretty early start for our technician in charge of the project (thanks

Chet!), but we proceeded with the plan. The first four days of testing went fine, but when we started on the fifth day, the plant management asked us to stop the testing. As it turned out, the high intensity speakers for the muster points were heard quite clearly in a nearby neighborhood, and one of the residents drove his car to the main plant gate, and parked across the drive, effectively shutting down access to the plant. When security officers talked with the man, they learned the neighbors were largely unappreciative of being awakened at 4am every day. So in the interests of being a good neighbor, the plant management agreed to conduct the remaining testing in the evening, and provide advance notification to the residents.

As you can guess, the new speakers did indeed provide the required sound levels inside the buildings and apparently a bit more than we needed outside!

## “QUARTERLY QUOTATION”

*“Light travels faster than sound, that is why some people appear to be bright until you hear them speak.”*

– Alan Dundes

## PHONE LINE CHANGES/CANCELS

Please check with us before cancelling or changing your telephone service. If your alarm system has not been converted to another means of communication, changes to your phone service could prevent your system from communicating properly!

# ACTIVITY STATS

*Our central station alarm activity for July, August and September is as follows:*

- **Burglaries:**
  - Commercial..... 4
  - School..... 1
  - Church..... 1
  - Residential..... 0
- **Holdups:**
  - Commercial..... 0
  - Financial Institution..... 0
- **Fires:**
  - Commercial..... 0
  - Residential..... 0
- **Individuals apprehended..... 1**

# COMPANY DIRECTORY:

We sincerely appreciate each of our customers who have entrusted us with their business. While we have implemented a voice mail option on our phone system, a friendly person is always available to take your call. All of our staff can be reached through our toll free number, **(800) 283-3659**. Our fax number is (517) 782-5670. If you prefer to contact one of us directly, we've provided our company directory.

## Administration:

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## Adrian Area Service:

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## Lansing Area Service:

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## Fire Alarm Systems Testing:

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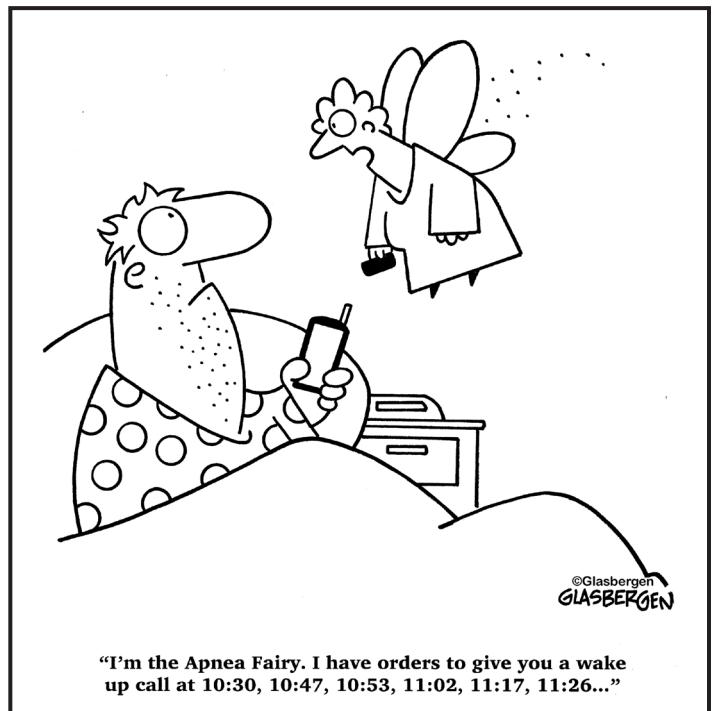
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