



# HOT NEWS

## Monitored Home Alarms

Most people are familiar with common disposable and inexpensive battery operated smoke detectors in use today. These devices work well but are not designed for 24 hour monitoring by a hired alarm company service. Some, but not all, smoke alarm devices can be monitored via a paid security / fire alarm firm. While there is no requirement to have a monitored fire alarm system in your personal home, monitored alarms do provide an increased level of fire alerting protection. The choice to use a monitoring service is a personal one and Camano Island Fire and Rescue does not endorse any specific alarm company.

Subscription alarm monitoring for your home or business is not done through your local 911 center. Instead, alarm monitoring is a subscriber paid fee service that private residential customers can choose to purchase for both enhanced security and / or fire reporting needs. Businesses are usually required by the International Fire Code to maintain a 24 hour functioning fire reporting system because members of the public frequent these establishments on a routine basis and could be placed in harm's way during a fire event.

Monitored alarm systems can help to alert the fire department more rapidly to a fire event occurring inside your home – or while you are away - by speeding up the fire reporting process. In the event of a fire or the presence of smoke, an alarm activation signal is sent immediately to the Central Station Alarm Panel mounted in your house. At the same time a signal is also sent to the alarm monitoring company via your home phone line or wireless radio circuit to indicate the alarm status. Reporting of a fire event is critical because fires can double in size and intensity for each minute left unchecked. The staff at the alarm monitoring company then makes the call to the subscriber's local 911 office.

Often, you will see homes that have two smoke detectors side-by-side. One may be a 120 volt household current energized smoke detector device - to meet the current building codes - and the other smoke detector may be a battery back-up type detector for extra protection during frequent local power outages.

### False Alarm Issues

One of the most common reasons for a smoke detector tripping is something burning on the stove, and homeowners invariably end up disconnecting the smoke detector closest to the kitchen. Residential smoke detectors should be installed outside of each bedroom, on each floor of your home, and not near the kitchen.

### What Should You Do ?

1. Determine if your existing smoke detectors are monitored or not ( you can call your alarm company or the local F.D. to ask ).
2. Replace smoke detectors that are more than 10 years old and consider replacing them if they are more than 5 years old.
3. If you only have 120 volt smoke detectors installed, then consider adding either a secondary battery powered smoke detector for use during power outages OR adding a subscription fee type monitored alarm with compatible smoke detectors.
4. Smoke Detectors Save Lives! Always have some manner of working smoke detectors in your home, whether a monitored alarm system or not.

### **Serve on the CAG?**

Our newly formed Citizen's Advisory Group has begun meeting but there are still open positions. If interested, please contact Assistant Chief Levon Yengoyan at 360-387-1512 for further information.

### **Sign up for our E-Newsletter**

Do you know anyone else that would like to receive our E-Newsletter and other information from CIFR? Please have them sign up for our Email list at [www.camanofire.com/news/sign-up/](http://www.camanofire.com/news/sign-up/)

### **Like Us on Facebook!**

Camano Island Fire and Rescue has a facebook page at [www.facebook.com/camanofire](http://www.facebook.com/camanofire).

### **Visit our Website.**

Our website contains the latest information regarding your fire department. Please visit us at [www.camanofire.com](http://www.camanofire.com)

## **CIFR Launches New Emergency Medical Information (EMI) Program**

Camano Island Fire and Rescue is excited to announce our new EMI Program. This initiative is designed to make sure that every home on the Island has Emergency Medical Information easily available in the event of a medical emergency.

Taking the time to fill out and store the information now will save you precious time and confusion in the event of an emergency. Time is critical in helping our paramedics and firefighters help you. The EMI form will speak for you if you or others cannot.

This program will launch over the weekend of May 14th and 15th. Stay tuned for more information.

