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Security Solutions

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS AND SECURING THE FUTURE.

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Throughout the Caribbean there is a constant fear of crime and you regularly hear statements such as “who are the people that commit these acts” or “what kind of person would do such a thing”. Very often these statements reflect the average individual’s lack of knowledge of what Caribbean criminals look like. The Crime Stoppers Programs in the Caribbean has now taken a step towards filling that lack of knowledge. In our first article you can learn more about the new **Most Wanted** web site.

If you have not realized it, Christmas is here. Unfortunately, along with the joy of Christmas there is sometimes the sadness of being robbed, as thieves become more active. To help ensure that your Christmas is filled with joy we provide **10 Holiday Safety Tips**.

Vehicles are no longer cheap, even foreign used vehicles have increased in price. Every vehicle owner has to be concerned about protecting their vehicle and about incidents that affect the driver and passengers in the vehicle. The protection choices are many and our article, **Protection of Vehicles** looks at these choices.

It seems that everybody can call themselves a consultant these days. Our article “Freelance Security Consultants addresses what you should expect from a security consultant.



No one likes being awakened because of false alarms from their business. Up til now however it was difficult for monitoring stations to tell false alarms from real problems. **Video Verification** now provides a means of reducing false burglar alarms.

Babies are curious by nature but that curiosity can sometimes have harmful consequences. Parents therefore need to consider ways of **Keeping the Baby Safe** and our final article provides info on ways to do that.

Is there anyone who you think would benefit from receiving this magazine? If there is, just send their name an email address to newsletter@assl.com and we would be happy to add them to our mailing list.

Brian Ramsey
Editor

Most Wanted

Caribbean, Bermuda & Latin America

The Crime Stoppers Program has created a web site featuring the Most Wanted persons in the Caribbean, Bermuda and Latin America. The web site provides photos of the wanted persons and a synopsis of the crime(s). The information for the web site is supplied by the Police Forces in the participating countries. The web site also provides a means for you to anonymously give information to the Crime Stoppers program over the Internet.

The web site address is www.caribbeanmostwanted.com



10 Holiday Safety Tips

With the holidays upon us, and recent news headlines reporting an increase in violent crime occurrences in the home, workplace, and on school campuses, University of Phoenix is providing ten safety tips aimed

to prevent you from becoming the victim of a crime this holiday season.



1. **Be aware.** It is essential to be aware of your surroundings at all times. By being alert, you may be able to stop an attack before it occurs.
2. **Trust your instincts.** Listen to what your intuition tells you. This will allow you to avoid a situation that does not feel safe.
3. **Keep your cell phone handy.** It is critical to have a cell phone at all times, but do not keep it glued to your ear. Talking on the phone causes people to be less aware of their surroundings.
4. **Avoid presenting a victim profile.** When out in public look people in the eye, keep your head up, and walk with a confident stride. This could prevent an attack.
5. **Lock car doors and leave.** Many people have the tendency to get into their car and sit. This gives an attacker the ability to break into the vehicle and cause bodily harm, or allow them to steal the car.
6. **Keep your wallet close.** Always carry your purse or wallet, do not leave it in the shopping cart. For added security, men's wallets can be carried in the front pockets of their pants to help avoid pick pocketing.
7. **Walk in pairs.** When shopping alone and leaving at night, ask a security officer to accompany you to your car. When carrying several packages you become a target; safety comes in numbers.
8. **When attacked, attack back.** You need to make your attacker fear their own safety. Strike their weaker points: the eyes, knees or throat.
9. **Almost anything can be a weapon.** Everyday objects such as keys or pepper spray can be used against an attacker.
10. **When attacked, attack back.** You need to make your attacker fear their own safety. Strike their weaker points: the eyes, knees or throat.

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Protection of Vehicles

By Brian Ramsey

Threats against vehicles and persons in vehicles seem to be multiplying every day. One has to be on guard against vehicle theft, carjacking, kidnapping, delivery vehicle robbery and an ever expanding list of threats. Just as the threats increase so do the measures that are promoted for protection against these threats. This article will look at three of the most commonly used vehicle protection measures.

Specialised Locks

One of the earliest vehicle protection measures was the use of specialised locks, particularly wheel locks and door locks. Specialised locks continue to be used with steering locks and gear locks now being the most common. These locks usually consist of a bolt of hardened steel with a high security lock. They are either fastened to the steering wheel to prevent the wheel being turned or over the gear level to prevent the gear from being engaged.

Over time there has been refinement in these locks in that while most use a mechanical key you can now get models that are operated by numeric keypads. The original versions of these locks were easy to see within the

vehicle and the sight acted as a deterrent to thieves but you can now get versions that are concealed.

These specialised locks are good for when the vehicle is parked and you are not in it, so they function as both a deterrent and a prevention measure. They do however require you to develop the habit of using them because having a specialised lock and not using it is a waste of time and money. With these locks there is always the danger of the “unguarded moment”, the one time that you forgot to use it. These locks also do not protect against crimes that occur when you are in the vehicle such as carjacking.

Alarms

Vehicle alarm systems are another popular anti-theft device. The majority of these devices are designed to detect someone opening the doors or trunk or bonnet and trigger a siren if the alarms system has been turned on. Newer systems incorporate additional detection devices to provide greater protection, so some systems will also detect rocking of the vehicle and others have added Passive Infra-Red sensors to detect persons who enter without opening the doors.

One of the shortcomings of earlier vehicle alarm systems was that they required the driver to physically turn them on, usually by means of a key, thus running the risk of the driver forgetting. While there are still systems that require the driver to arm them, often by means of remote button, the newest systems will automatically arm themselves

once the vehicle has been switched off.

The intent of most vehicle alarm systems is to detect a theft attempt and trigger a siren. The concept being that individuals (passersby or the driver) will hear the siren and go towards the vehicle disrupting the theft attempt. The frequency of false alarms however has resulted in the majority of persons ignoring vehicle alarms when they hear them. In addition the majority of vehicle alarms have been designed to work when no one is in the vehicle thus not providing protection in carjacking or kidnapping situations.

Vehicle alarm manufacturers have responded by enhancing the systems with immobilisers (also known as a kill switch). With the most common types of vehicle alarms the transmitter for the immobiliser must be in the vehicle in order for the vehicle to be started. Thus even if someone silenced the siren they could not drive the vehicle without the transmitter. Some manufacturers have even designed their transmitters so that the vehicle will continue to operate for a short while if the transmitter is out of the vehicle. This is useful in a carjacking situation as it allows the bandit to drive away with the vehicle putting some distance between the victim and himself before the vehicle stops. This is designed to allow the victim to escape while the car will eventually stop allowing a later easier recovery of the vehicle. Of course for these immobiliser systems to be effective in a carjacking, the driver cannot keep the

immobiliser transmitter next to the ignition key.



As a further refinement some vehicle alarm manufacturers have added panic buttons as part of the alarm system. Thus in a personal attack, the driver can press the panic button, triggering the siren in the hope that someone will hear the siren and act.

GPS

Vehicle tracking systems based on the use of GPS are the newest measure being employed in Trinidad and Tobago as a protective device. GPS stands for the Global Positioning System (GPS) that is a satellite-based radio-navigation system developed and operated by the U.S. Department of Defence (DOD). The GPS system consists of 24 satellites orbiting the earth in 6 circular orbits. GPS provides the user with their 3-dimensional position, their current velocity and the exact time. The information from vehicles outfitted with a GPS device is captured at the central control point and updated to a web site and so accessible to the user.

GPS vehicle tracking was primarily designed as a means of managing vehicle fleets to improve company efficiency and so ultimately company profitability. This still remains one of the primary benefits of GPS vehicle tracking, however individuals have seen the benefit of being able to accurately identify the position of a vehicle as a means of dealing with the threats of vehicle theft, carjacking, kidnapping and delivery vehicle robbery. In addition some suppliers of vehicle tracking systems in Trinidad and Tobago have enhanced their GPS tracking systems to provide benefits that help reduce loss from these threats.



There are now multiple suppliers in Trinidad and Tobago offering GPS vehicle tracking systems. As in all things it is important to assess each supplier to determine if their system adequately meets your needs. Some of the factors to consider if you are looking at GPS for protection as opposed to fleet management are:

- How accurate are the maps that are used for pinpointing the vehicle's location?
- How frequently is the vehicle position updated on the map so that you

have the most accurate location?

- Does the system have a panic button to alert someone that there is a problem?
- Does the panic button provide instant alerts to a security company?
- Is there any arrangement for security response to panic button signals?
- Does the system have the facility for monitoring of conversations in the vehicle during an emergency?
- Does the system have the ability for two way voice communication in an emergency?
- Does the system give you a choice of telecommunication provider?

As the above article has sought to point out, each protective device has been designed to counteract specific threats. In determining the most appropriate protective device you must assess what is your most likely threat. It may be that for the best protection you need a combination of systems.

About the Author
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If you are interested in having First Aid Training or Defensive Driving Training for your staff, contact Amalgamated Security

Freelance Security Consultants

By Peter Bolt

Security Consultants are professionals proficient in security functions, risk assessments and related industry projects and managerial consulting. They fulfill a need requiring knowledge and competency unfulfilled by law enforcement which often times are understaffed, overworked and sometimes lack the private sector acumen to advise and function effectively as security consultants. These consultants are required depending on their specific function to act as liaisons between their private sector clients and law enforcement personnel. Although there are a substantial amount of former law enforcement personnel joining the ranks and providing security consultancy it requires a professional adjustment and paradigm shift to fulfill the security function competently.

The security consultant is essentially an advisor who utilizes his experience, knowledge and resources to recommend procedures, equipment, personnel, etc. to reduce and/or mitigate the risk exposure of the client. If, the consultant is called in after an

incident to assess the culpability of the parties involved or determine the responsible parties, the consultant will review all policies and procedures or lack thereof effective at the time of the incident, review physical environment, condition of applicable equipment function or malfunction, surveillance video (if available) and other incident specific data to assess the event and make a determination of the chain of events or the Who, What, Where, Why and How of the occurrence. Documentation by the consultant inclusive of recommendations can be critical to the client in deciding how to proceed and corrective measures to take if applicable to alleviate the possibility of incident reoccurring. It is imperative for the consultant to be unbiased in his or her assessment and recommendations and present the facts as determined, impartially.



A security consultant can have multiple functions or proficiencies including conducting security audits, risk assessment, executive protection, technical surveillance counter measures to name a few. All these functions including physical surveillance can be interrelated depending on the case and events requiring the services of the consultant. A professional practitioner would

be able to assess what functions would be required to effect the security necessary for the client based on the nature of the case. However, as the case unfolds the requirements might shift or expand and vigilance is essential to remain effective in the security capacity. Integrity is the hallmark of all security functions; professionalism and reputation are what clients depend on. The thoroughness, foresight and ability to adapt to the unexpected is paramount to ones profession depending on the security function applicable to the case or assignment, e.g. Security Consultants can coordinate executive protection details including conducting threat assessment, pre-surveillance, counter-surveillance, logistics, security personnel and/or be an intricate part and member of the close protection team. This is determined by the threat assessment, logistics, coordination and the proficiency of the security practitioner in the executive protection capacity in concert with other required security functions. However, some security consultants make their assessments and render recommendations to their clients but are not instrumental in executing the recommendations given. Implementation is done by the client, third parties or in-house corporate security personnel.



A growing cache of professional security consultants are affiliated with international organizations which offer standardized certification attesting to the competency of consultants by ascribing a certain level of years of experience in a security function, fulfilling an academic curriculum and passing a written test. Recertification is required to maintain the credential and keep current on developments in the industry that impact the consultants' profession.

The landscape in which the security consultant functions is constantly evolving; especially in a post 911 environment. New threats have surfaced, old threats have remained and adaptation is imperative to remain effective against all. This has increased the demand for security consultants and other security related professionals equipped with the knowledge, experience and fortitude to deliver competent services to address security issues of various magnitudes and durations. The market essentially benefits from this diversity in which depending on the requirement various consultants can be sought and matched to fulfill it. This fosters and promotes free enterprise which economically is regulated by the law of supply and demand.

About the Author

Peter Bolt is a consultant for Freelance Security Consultants, a convenient professional online marketplace where buyers of security and private investigation services can post projects, find and compare security

consultants, private investigators, private detectives and investigation agencies. He can be contacted at info@fresecon.com, website: [Freelance Security Consultants](http://FreelanceSecurityConsultants.com) for communications.

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Video Verification of Burglar Alarms

By Jenny Nutt

It has been proven that false alarms and dispatches can be greatly reduced where Monitoring Centers employ the use of video verification technology to visually identify the source of alarm events. This is due to the enhanced information made available to operators when it needs to be determined if an alarm should be reported to authorities.



The security industry has slowly progressed from using standard verification methods such as a voice call, through Enhanced Verification such as sequential events from two or more detectors, to video verification.

The most basic form of Video Verification is where captured video is associated with an alarm event and is presented to monitoring facility personnel. This is usually in the form of a sequence of still snapshot images in Jpeg format or short a video clip and it will depend on the features available within the IP camera or network video server.

As a follow up to Captured Video, it is generally acceptable for monitoring facility personnel to use a live video connection to remotely view the premises and observe post alarm activity for a limited period of time. The ability for monitoring operators to do this and the amount of time that live video is available should be at the discretion of the subscriber as respect for their privacy is paramount.

Speed of Video Capture

A minimum of 5 still snapshot images should be taken with a maximum of one second between each frame. Recording should begin within one hundred milliseconds of the actual alarm event so that valuable information is not lost. This can be accomplished locally either by a hard wired connection from an alarm panel to an IP camera or IP video server, or remotely via software commands from a monitoring server upon the receipt of an event from an alarm

panel and suitable IP alarm communicator.

Advantages of Video Verification

When used in combination with cross zoning, listen-in audio or phone calls to the premises, video verification is a powerful tool for the prevention of false alarms. Video can be reviewed by the monitoring facility personnel prior to making notification calls to the relevant authorities and can include detailed information gathered to indicate if an emergency exists.

Video should be easily accessible to a trained monitoring operator and should be of a quality such that they will be able to decipher between a human and non-human. It is recommended that any captured video should include the area covered by the sensor that triggered the alarm event. If the sensor is a movement sensor, then the camera field of view should attempt to include as much of the movement sensors coverage area as possible.

About the Author

Jenny Nutt is head of the video section at [alarm monitoring](#) service provider [MyAlarm](#) in the UK.

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Keeping the Baby Safe



By [Levi Mortenson](#) ★

The curious little minds and hands of infants can often lead them into trouble. As they totter around the house exploring every nook and cranny they can potentially hurt themselves on any number of things. Parents are often understandably concerned about issues like this so it is necessary for them to try and increase the home security of their house as much as possible when introducing a little person into it. Each room presents its own unique set of problems for a young baby so a parent must do their best to try and anticipate what kind of troubles their child might get into.

Fortunately, there is a whole business built around helping parents make their homes safer for a baby to live in. Baby proofing a home can seem like a daunting task but it is quite

doable when a person has the right help. Parents should get the right tools for each room of the house to prevent their child from encountering any harm. One room that needs a lot of attention when adults are trying to improve home security is the bathroom. The door to the bathroom, and every door in the house, should be equipped with a soft rubber door stop to keep an exploring baby from hurting themselves or the wall with a swinging door.

Placing a plastic lock on the lid of the toilet is another important item to install in the bathroom. The last thing any parent wants is their small child splashing around in the toilet or falling in and hurting themselves. These toilet locks are easy for adults to remove but prying little baby hands cannot get past them. Placing a baby bumper around the bathtub is a great way to improve home security for a child so they do not slip and hit their head on the hard tile. Installing a grip handle next to the tub is another good idea to help teetering infants make their way in and out of the bath safely.

Placing a potty seat in the toilet is an essential item for children that are potty training. Having a potty seat protects the child from falling into the toilet and offers them an added sense of freedom since parents do not need to watch their every move to make sure they do not hurt themselves. Another item that helps with home security for a baby is placing a protective shield over the water temperature controller. It would be very dangerous if a parent turned around for a second

and a curious little child turned the water towards scalding.

Parents should also look into a locking container where they can put bathroom cleaning supplies to keep them away from a baby. Medicine and cleaning supplies need to be kept well out of reach from a baby so their roaming arms do not open a bottle of potentially lethal material. Babies bring a lot of love and joy into homes, but they also increase the stress level as parents try to anticipate their wandering child's every move. Increasing home security for a child does not have to be a difficult task thanks to all of the products and companies that exist to help. With a little effort and some smart purchases parents can make their home as safe as possible for their growing and learning child.

About the Author

Help protect what's important with an [ADT home security system](#). Use an [ADT alarm system](#) to help keep you safe.

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http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Levi_Mortenson

Amalgamated Security provides a GPS Tracking service with the most detailed maps of Trinidad

Amalgamated Security provides a full range of security services, which include:

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