



WHAT IS A BDA?

For most of my career, we have installed firefighter telephones as part of the fire alarm system in high rise buildings. As radio technology and protective equipment evolved for firefighters, their two way radio systems were built into their helmets. When they encountered a high rise building without good radio coverage inside, their only option was to open up their helmet and plug a telephone handset into a special jack in the stairway or elevator lobby, and talk to the fire command officer at the fire alarm control panel using a similar handset. Basically, the firefighter's phone system was a 1960's era technology that had clearly fallen behind the times. From the firefighter's point of view, their radio system was far more useful and didn't require them to only communicate from a fixed location, the only problem was it didn't always work where needed inside the building.

Technology has come to the rescue! Notifier, among other manufacturers, has developed a radio enhancement system using a Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA) to take the public safety radio frequency, and distribute it to multiple antennas throughout the building, so that the fire fighters radio system will work throughout the building, which eliminates the need for the antique fire fighter telephone system.

Last April, the State of Michigan adopted the 2015 Michigan Building Code, and radio enhancement systems are now not only recognized by the Code, they are required for all new buildings, regardless of whether they are a high rise. Of course if the fire department radio coverage is adequate in the building, the BDA system does not need to be added. This is one of the few code changes that directly impact firefighter operations, and will be very useful in the future.

Of course we have more than a passing interest in BDA systems! Our staff is currently getting FCC certification, and we are investing in training and equipment to perform

site surveys and layout of BDA systems for both existing buildings and new buildings in the design phase. These systems integrate with the building fire alarm system, and supervise the antennas, signal strength, amplifiers and standby power to make sure the system is operational when called on. We are rolling this system out in the spring of 2018, so please contact us if you would like to be sure your building has adequate radio coverage for fire fighters!

“QUARTERLY QUOTATION”

“It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.”

– Mark Twain

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!

POLICY UPDATE

We are changing our policy on AC power loss signals for residential customers, and unless you request otherwise, we will not call you for an AC power loss signal between 11pm and 8am. If you would like to be notified during those hours, please call Tracy or Sandy at (800) 283-3659.

ACTIVITY STATS

Our central station alarm activity for January, February, and March is as follows:

- **Burglaries:**
 - Commercial/School..... 2
 - Residential..... 0
 - Financial 0
- **Holdups:**
 - Commercial..... 0
 - Financial Institution..... 0
- **Fires:**
 - Commercial..... 1
 - Residential..... 0
- **Individuals apprehended..... 0**

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:

Jodi Decker, CEO (517) 782-9541
jodidecker@safetysystems.net

Dan Decker, President (517) 782-9817
dandecker@safetysystems.net

Monitoring Center:

Tracy Morgan, Manager (517) 782-5980
tracymorgan@safetysystems.net

Technical Services:

Steve Lee, Manager (517) 782-5998
stevelee@safetysystems.net

Dawn Brown, Scheduling (517) 782-5948
dawnbrown@safetysystems.net

Adrian Area Service:

Jim Faulk (517) 263-9100
jimfaulk@safetysystems.net

Lansing Area Service:

Steve Pierce (517) 484-3072
stevepierce@safetysystems.net

Fire Alarm Systems Testing:

Kurt Scott, Manager (517) 782-5941
kurtscott@safetysystems.net

Fire Extinguishers/Suppression Systems:

Jeff Cattell, Manager (517) 782-5946
jeffcattell@safetysystems.net

Customer Service and Sales:

Toll Free: (800) 283-3659

Steve Carlson, VP/Sales Mgr. (517) 782-5999
stevecarlson@safetysystems.net

Amber Barber, Sales Coordinator (517) 782-5940
amberbarber@safetysystems.net

Mike Anderson - Lansing (517) 485-4558
mikeanderson@safetysystems.net

Rob Davis - Jackson (517) 782-9517
robdavis@safetysystems.net

Chad Gleeson - Jackson (517) 782-5969
chadgleeson@safetysystems.net

Bob Magill - Livonia (734) 838-0434
bobmagill@safetysystems.net

Mike Rosso - Livonia (734) 838-0435
mikerosso@safetysystems.net

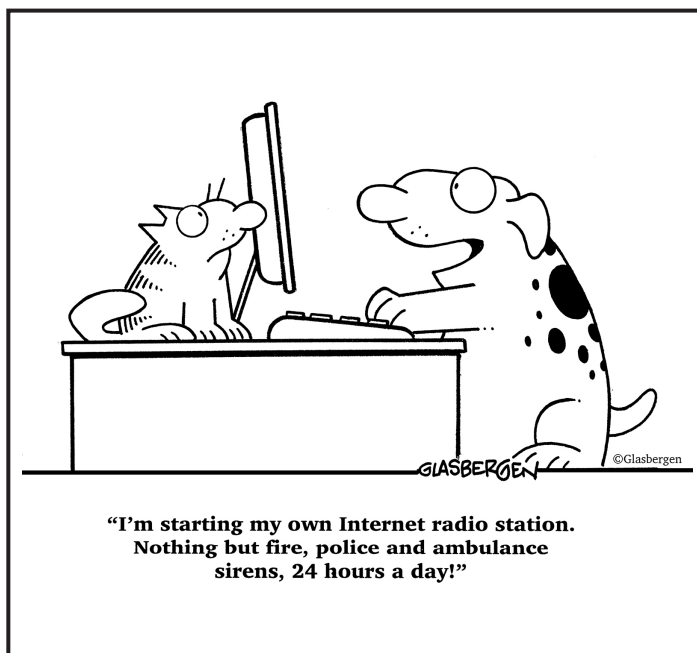
Jim Walsh - Toledo (419) 887-5810
jimwalsh@safetysystems.net

Accounting:

Patricia Brown, Manager (517) 782-9229
patbrown@safetysystems.net

Jackie Olivas (517) 782-9542
jackieolivas@safetysystems.net

Lindy Gannon (517) 782-9228
lindygannon@safetysystems.net



Newsletter editor: Dan Decker
