

Important Things to Know When Selecting....Intrusion Alarm

An Intrusion Alarm system can provide perimeter building security as well as security for certain high-risk areas in your facility. The system can be armed and disarmed from various keypads. Upon a detected intrusion, the system will send alarm signals to our central monitoring station for proper dispatch. Below is some common security terminology used when referring to intrusion alarm systems. If you are considering purchasing this type of security solution for your facility, we encourage you to review this information prior to making your decision.

Alarm Communication – If a security breach is detected by your alarm system, the alarm controller will send a signal to a predetermined location to notify the owner. Alarm systems can communicate via telephone lines, cellular signal or over a network. Many systems use two forms of communication in case one is disabled.

Central Station Monitoring – Alarm systems can be monitored remotely by a central monitoring station. An alarm panel can be programmed to communicate with the monitoring station in the event of a security breach, and monitoring personnel will attempt to contact the owner (or other predetermined personnel) to help prevent false alarms. A monthly or annual reoccurring charge is often billed for this service.



Cellular Backup – This communication device is a supplementary component to an alarm system. Traditional alarm systems communicate with a monitoring station or call list through a standard telephone line or over a network, however some facilities also install a cellular backup unit to facilitate communication in the event the primary communication method fails.

Motion Sensor – A device used to monitor motion in an area. These units are installed in spaces where motion should not be present when the system is armed (i.e. an office after business hours or on weekends). In the event an intruder enters the monitored area, the motion sensor will notify the control panel. Dakota Security recommends the use of dual-technology motion sensors in traditional alarm system installations. Dual technology sensors require two events (typically movement and temperature change) to occur before the device is tripped. Use of this technology minimizes false alarms from ceiling fans, air conditioning units and other interference.

Environmental Sensor – Any environmental change within a protected area that can be detected can be used to generate an alarm. There are several devices available that can be used to monitor temperature, humidity level, or the presence of water in a certain area. These devices assist with monitoring conditions in areas that are difficult or dangerous to access.



Scalability – When purchasing a security solution, consider potential expansion needs in the future. At this point you may wish to monitor only a portion of your facility, but perhaps a renovation or an increase in funding will give you the opportunity to add to your system in upcoming years. Planning for these needs will allow your integrator to provide you with the most cost-effective and flexible security solution.

Connectivity – Consider how you want to interface with your security solution. Do you want to be able to access it from a computer in a control room or on your laptop at home? Perhaps you want to log into the system on the go through a smart phone such as Android or iPhone? A variety of connectivity options are available for security applications, although features such as multiple workstation client and web client/browser based software options may incur additional costs. Also, some security solutions will not offer all connectivity options for certain operating systems, so it is important to discuss the operating system your facility is currently using (Windows, MAC, Linux) with your integrator.



REED Switch Technology – Common technology used in door contacts throughout the security industry. However, reed switches are sensitive to changes in temperature, voltage spikes, improper handling, and can easily be defeated using a simple magnet. Dakota Security recommends the use of Magnasphere door contacts, which employ patented technology to eliminate these vulnerabilities.