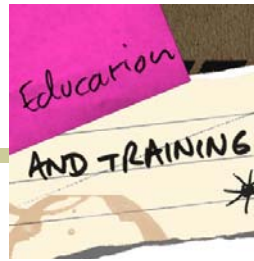




Murray Guard, Inc.

People, that's what it is all about!



Security Update

Did You Know?

Volume 2 Issue 3 Mar 10

A NEW FEATURE FOR OUR READERS!

PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

At Murray Guard we have an extensive library of on line training programs. *As part of our commitment to the industries we serve we are offering a free two week trial access to this training.* We believe that education is the foundation of a solid security program that includes not only the security officers that serve your organization but also the individuals they protect. Becoming aware of potential hazards and knowing how to respond can save lives and property. As you will read in our feature article occupant education is one of the keys to a successful security program.



Over 200 programs available

Learn how you can improve the safety and security of your facility

Contact us at:

1-800-238-3830 and ask for Shirley Johnson or

E-mail - dcappetto@murrayguard.com



Newsletter Spotlight

...a recession is not a good time to cut the security budget...

Feature Story

Building Security Hotspots

By Lacey Muszynski

If a company hasn't had a serious security incident for some time, C-suite executives often become complacent and may wonder if all the security systems, regulations and jobs already in place are necessary. But complacency isn't a good reason to cut the security budget, especially in a recession when crime often increases.

"A recession puts economic pressure on everyone," says Bill Sako, chairman of the

often become complacent and may wonder if all the security systems, regulations and jobs already in place are necessary. But complacency isn't a good reason to cut the security budget, especially in a recession when crime often increases.

"A recession puts economic pressure on everyone," says Bill Sako, chairman of the board at Sako & Associates, a security consulting firm. "All forms of crime rise at all levels as people respond to that pressure."

With increased financial pressure comes increased likelihood of employees committing crimes like theft and embezzlement against a company, even if the employee never thought of committing a crime during better economic times, says Paul Benne, senior security specialist with Syska Hennessy Group. "When people's salaries are reduced or spouses are laid off, opportunities for crime become more attractive," he says.

To avoid an upswing in security incidents, facility executives should take stock of potential threats to their facilities. Evaluating current security procedures will reveal areas where security might need to be increased to protect the company's assets, including facilities, proprietary data and employees.

Persuading Top Executives

Convincing the C-suite that a recession is not a good time to cut the security budget is not easy. The mindset may be "we'll deal with an incident when it happens," says Sean Ahrens, project manager, security consulting and design services for Schirmer Engineering, an Aon Global company. But that thinking could leave the organization open to huge liability issues.

To determine what types of security measures are best for a facility, do a risk assessment. Look at the threats to and vulnerabilities of a facility, along with their consequences and probability of occurring, says Benne. Look at the history of incidents in the facility as well as the surrounding area.

Once the risks to a facility have been analyzed, there are best practices that facility executives may need to implement in order to have the most secure facility possible. Here are some of the most common areas of security that should be addressed.

Access Control. Even if an organization feels that something as high-tech as fingerprint scanners is not necessary, facilities still using keys as their primary form of access control should re-evaluate their systems. With a programmable, card-based system, if one card is lost, security simply needs to deactivate that card to ensure that unwanted guests cannot gain access to the facility. If, however, a key is lost, re-keying can be costly.

Electronic access control systems are necessary, but there is no replacement for someone who physically controls — or oversees — main access to a building. It is highly recommended that security staff control access at the main entrance, especially in facilities where the lobby area is open to the public.

Parking Lots. The most important security feature in a parking structure is ample lighting. Ahrens even goes so far as to suggest "friendly" lighting, such as metal halide, that does not appear yellow or dim like sodium-vapor lamps. Dim lighting may make occupants feel unsafe and encourage would-be criminals to target one parking structure over another.

A simple, often low-cost program to implement is a security escort for anyone who requests one to their vehicle. Many facilities are willing to offer escorts for occupants' piece of mind — especially women's, says Craighead.

Occupant Education. Facility occupants need to know how to respond to an emergency or potential threat. Facility and security staff should set up classes for new hires that focus on what to do in case of a security emergency, not just in case of fire, says Benne. At some point, every facility will encounter an emergency, whereas not all may encounter a fire, he says.

In addition to classes, many organizations are now using online information sites with videos, tutorials and FAQs for their building and links to other Web sites such as the Department of Homeland Security. Occupants can use the site as a refresher course to their initial training.

Sako recommends fostering an attitude that security is everyone's business. "More often than not, people who observe irregular behavior do not report it because they aren't sure how or who to report it to," he says. "Ongoing training and newsletters go a long way in making people aware of how to identify irregular activity and what to do about it."

Final Thoughts

As the weather warms up and the outdoor activities increase make sure you follow some simple guidelines:

- Check and service all your lawn equipment.
- Check your home security to make sure the winter weather has not compromised electronic sensors.



- Check and service all your lawn equipment.
- Check your home security to make sure the winter weather has not compromised electronic sensors.
- Service your vehicles and prepare them for warm weather activities.
- Make sure you are physically ready for increased activity.



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