

APRIL 2017

HGCAA

Houston Gulf Coast Alarm Association



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Education Director	Past President
Vacant education@hgcaa.org	Brian McKinney 713-983-0182 pastpres@hgcaa.org

President's Message

John C. Helweg

We had a pretty good turnout at the March Fire Marshal's Forum. We had ten municipalities represented answering questions and sharing with us the most common problems they see at the office and in the field. We had approximately seventy people attend the event. Putting on an event like this is a lot of work. I'm very appreciative of our Board members that did such a great job making calls, amassing the questions and pulling the event together. They did an outstanding job.

I'd like to remind everyone that when you register for an event, you are telling us how many people we need to plan for. We base our food purchase and room size on that information. When you don't show up it costs the association time and money.

The speaker for our April meeting is Derek Thain with Vacek & Thain, PLLC. He will be speaking on Estate Planning. He will discuss various options and the pros/cons of our choices. I can tell you from personal experience that these guys are very knowledgeable and thorough.

I'm pleased to announce that I've spoken with the Houston Region DPS Office and they have agreed to have a representative present at our meetings as often as they can. Captain Kellye Turner will be at the upcoming meeting.

Last but not least I'd like to congratulate our friend Mitch Reitman for his induction into the Security Sales & Integration Hall of Fame.

Treasurer's Report

Penny Mayorga

Accounts	Balance
Chase Checking	\$3,096.55
Chase Savings	\$18,975.51
PayPal	\$3,243.75
Cash	\$751.00
Undeposited Funds	\$0.00
COMBINED ACCTS	\$26,067.11
Accts Receivable	\$1,785.00
YTD PAC Donations	\$243.00
Paid Memberships	63

The stats on the FM Forum are as follows:

Total attendance - 68 (sign-in sheet)

FM's attending - 17

Memberships gained - 7

Cost of D&B - \$2,210.84

Paid lunches - \$1,345.00

We had approximately 100 people registered for the event, so we purchased food based on that number. The seven new members almost make the event break even.

We will be billing companies for the individuals that they registered, but did not attend/pay to help make up for the loss in food.

Membership Director's Report

Mary Edmonson

Membership:

The following companies have applied for membership. If anyone knows of a reason that their membership should be denied please contact the Board immediately.

New Members resulting from the FM Forum:

- Advantage Security Integration
- OC Fire & Security
- JM&A Fire Alarm, LLC
- Pro-Tech Fire & Security
- Quality Security
- Velocity
- ASAP



Houston Gulf Coast Alarm Association
Minutes of HGCAA Meeting & Luncheon 3/9/2017
Held at Dave & Busters, Houston, TX

Meeting called to order at 11:34

2016-2017 HGCAA Officers / Directors:

President – John Helweg
Vice President – Van Mayorga
Secretary – Amanda Jackson
Treasurer – Penny Mayorga
Sergeant at Arms – James Pratt

Membership Director – Mary Edmonson
Associate Director – Jerry Davis
General / Regional Director – Dennis White
Parliamentarian – Calvin Stewart

Standard Business:

Benediction/Pledge – led by Van Mayorga
Roll call of Officers, established quorum, Secretary absent
Recognized associate members in attendance
Recognized guests & 1st Responders
Round Table Introductions
Meeting Minutes – reviewed and approved - motion by Calvin Stewart
Treasurer's Report – reviewed and approved motion by Steve Carr

Director's Reports, Committee Reports, & Old Business:

- In the interest of time, director's reports were skipped.

New Business:

- FM Forum.

Old Business:

- Reminder about new license numbers on trucks, forms, and advertising. March 1 has come and gone.
- Explained the difference between regional association and state association. Encourage membership sign up.
- City of Houston's request for commercial accounts
- Facebook page
- Bowling tournament April 19, 3-5pm

Guest Speaker: FM Forum – Multiple Fire Marshals - Highlights

- Moment of Silence for Captain Dowling of HFD.
- State Fire Marshal Earnest McCloud spoke first
- Fort Bend County has 1 person working on a project from start to finish. You work with same inspector throughout project.
- If a panel is dead, must have Fire Watch
- Montgomery County, Alvin, & Village FD require permits for changing out panels.

Raffles: Larger prize first except the PAC Fund:

- \$25 Amazon (HGCAA) – Travis Knowles
- \$25 Bass Pro (HGCAA) – Danny Little
- \$25 Home Depot (HGCAA) – Bill Waters
- \$25 Pappas (HGCAA) – Danny Forrest
- \$25 Academy with Notebook & Pen (Affiliated Monitoring) – Ricky Willis
- \$25 Cash (El Dorado) – Clint Fagg
- Rtic Cup (Tri-Ed) – Mark Popkowski
- PAC \$195 \$98/\$97 (American Fire) – James Weston – accepted all

Meeting Adjourned 1:15

Next meeting is April 13, 2017 at Tri-Ed North

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Introducing the SSI Industry Hall of Fame Class of 2017

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Find out why leaders in alarm installation & monitoring, life safety & systems integration, alarm device manufacturing, networked video, and business administration are entering SSI's Industry Hall of Fame.

MITCH REITMAN | FOUNDER AND PRINCIPAL, REITMAN CONSULTING GROUP

Why He's Being Inducted

- More than two decades setting a professional business standard within the electronic security industry; spreading the word of accounting and accountability
- Very involved in local, state and national security trade associations, serving on boards with ESA, AIREF, Texas Burglar and Fire Alarm Association (among others), and handles financial reporting and taxes for 20+ local associations
- Provides financial consulting, valuation, general accounting services, transactional services, tax compliance, and tax representation services to security companies in 23 states, Mexico, Canada and the EEC
- Firm has participated in more than \$750 million of security industry transactions and prepared 100+ alarm company valuations
- Participated in more than \$400 million of alarm account transactions as vice president of acquisitions for Select Security and director of acquisitions and business development for Protection One
- Shares best practices with industry at large through speaking engagements and trade publication articles



Bio: Mitch Reitman

- Born in 1958 in Birmingham, Ala.
- Brother to two sisters, father was a physician in the U.S. Navy and later ran a private practice; mother was a homemaker
- Has one son
- Earned BBA at the University of Texas and BS & MS degrees in Accounting at the University of North Texas; passed CPA exam in 1990
- Began accounting career with two large national firms, Coopers and Lybrand (now Price Waterhouse Coopers) and Kenneth Leventhal (now Ernst & Young)
- Other interests include cooking, bicycling and volunteer work

Keys to Success

"My father was a great role model. I have had some great interactions with incredible business leaders, during my time in public accounting and in the security industry and I have learned a lot from them. In public accounting, I was in the Emerging Business Group.

We worked with Compaq Computer, On the Border restaurants and other fast-growing, market-changing businesses. I developed relationships with some incredibly bright entrepreneurs who helped shape who I am today.

I have also developed relationships with many of the sharpest people in our industry that inform how I go about my business in 2017. That includes individuals associated with Protection One, Select Security, and the state and national alarm associations."

Professional and Personal Inspiration

"What motivates me professionally is being able to offer value to entrepreneurs and visionary business people who need reliable and relevant information to grow their businesses and achieve their goals.

I am also working with state and local security associations to establish scholarship programs for the children of first responders. I believe this is a great way for the industry to improve its relationship with the first responders.

My firm distributes and administers programs for several of these and it is very rewarding. I have been the blood drive chair for my Rotary Club for many years. I believe that assisting our blood banks is an excellent way to help the community."

Balancing Technology and Business

"The industry is moving more and more from detecting and reporting events to providing information to customers. Internet-enabled cameras and alarm panels can provide users with information about their businesses instead of waiting on an event that may or may not ever come.

Controlling access and environment, and eliminating human error are huge areas for growth in the industry. But the market is getting more competitive and business owners have to understand their financial situation.

Now, more than ever, it is important to be competitive and profitable. Even when it comes time to sell, businesses that are profitable from sources over and above the margins from their RMR will command premium prices."

Biggest Wish for Industry Change

"Only a small percentage of companies invest time in the trade associations and the resources that they have to offer. Many owners don't get involved until they are faced with an issue such as verified response.

The associations have a lot to offer and are very dependent on bright owners to volunteer for the betterment of the industry. It would be great if more large, successful firms, and their owners, recognized this and contributed more time and money."

Getting Into the HOF: [Click here to see the criteria for being inducted into the SSI Hall of Fame](#)

SOURCE: http://www.securitysales.com/article/ssi_industry_hall_fame_class_2017/P6

Bass Computers, Inc



Office Location:

10558 Bissonnet St

Houston, TX 77099

Phone: (281) 776-6700

Fax: (281) 776-6733



Texas Online Private Security (TOPS) Update

New Layout and Features!

Near the end of March, the look of your account will change and you will have additional features.

New Layout Each section of the current screen will be displayed in separate tabs. This will make the information easier to navigate and allows us to improve the speed of our service to you. If you select a tab that has no data, don't worry; this simply means that this tab does not pertain to your particular profile.



Logged in as flower rose. [Logout](#)

[My Profile](#)

[My Applications](#)

[My Registrations](#)

[My Business Applications](#)

[My Businesses](#)

Welcome, flower.

[Manage Account](#)

Manage your individual endorsement or business license using the tabs above. Tabs may not contain data depending on the content of your particular record.

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New Features

- **Application Checklist** After an employee's application has been submitted and the fee has been paid, they will be able to navigate to the new My Applications tab and select **Checklist**. Here they can view the complete list of required items for this application along with the status of each of those items. This **Checklist** is created by TOPS as soon as payment is received for the application. This is **real-time** customized information which will be updated as requirements are met. Your employees will know exactly which documents need to be submitted for this particular application; they should only submit those items listed.
- The checklist will also continue to be sent as an email, however the latest information is displayed after login. (Employers will be able to access this information in a later release. We know this is important to you, and it is on its way.)

More new features and updates are on the way in the coming months. We will continue to send updates via email and posting changes to the News page on the DPS Private Security web site <http://www.dps.texas.gov/rsd/psb/news.htm>.

Keep an eye on your inbox!

TOPS Update, March 2017

OLD Profile Layout: All information is on one screen – you need to scroll down until you get to the section you need. Since businesses operate most in the My Business section, this can be challenging, especially if you have more than one business.

My Profile

Manage Account

For new applications start here:

[Start Individual Application](#) [Start Business Application](#)

Use the plus to expand a section.

My Registrations

Type: Instructor Registration

License #: 78154003

Actions

Endorsement	Issue Date	Last Renewal	Expiration	Status
Level III Firearms Instructor	08/22/2001	08/01/2016	07/31/2017 (137 days)	Active
Level III Classroom Instructor	08/22/2001	08/01/2016	07/31/2017 (137 days)	Active
Level IV Personal Protection Instructor	08/15/2003	08/01/2016	07/31/2017 (137 days)	Active

Type: Unarmed Registration

License #: 78154001

Actions

Endorsement	Issue Date	Last Renewal	Expiration	Status
Security Consultant	08/30/2001		07/31/2003 (4977 days ago)	Expired

Type: Owner/Manager Registration

License #: 78154004

Actions

Endorsement	Issue Date	Last Renewal	Expiration	Status
Manager	05/08/2003	05/13/2015	05/08/2017 (53 days)	Active
Corporate Officer	05/08/2003	05/13/2015	05/08/2017 (53 days)	Active
Shareholder	05/08/2003	05/13/2015	05/08/2017 (53 days)	Active

Type: Owner/Manager Registration

License #: 78154005

Actions

Endorsement	Issue Date	Last Renewal	Expiration	Status
Manager	12/12/2002	12/03/2014	05/08/2017 (53 days)	Active
Corporate Officer	12/12/2002	12/03/2014	05/08/2017 (53 days)	Active

Type: Armed Registration

License #: 78154002

Actions

Endorsement	Issue Date	Last Renewal	Expiration	Status
Commissioned Security Officer	07/25/2001		07/25/2003 (4983 days ago)	Expired
Personal Protection Officer	03/21/2012	03/15/2016	03/09/2018 (358 days)	Active
Commissioned Security Officer	03/09/2012	03/15/2016	03/09/2018 (358 days)	Active

My Businesses

To view license information, address information, contact information, stakeholders and branch offices, choose View Details beside the name of the business. You can also initiate a business update and see the business certificate from the View Details page.

SENTRY SECURITY & INVESTIGATIONS L.P.

View Details

Type: Contracting Company

License #: C11454

Renew

Status: Insurance Suspension Expires: 04/30/2017

Branch Offices

Add Branch

SENTRY SECURITY TRAINING LLC

View Details

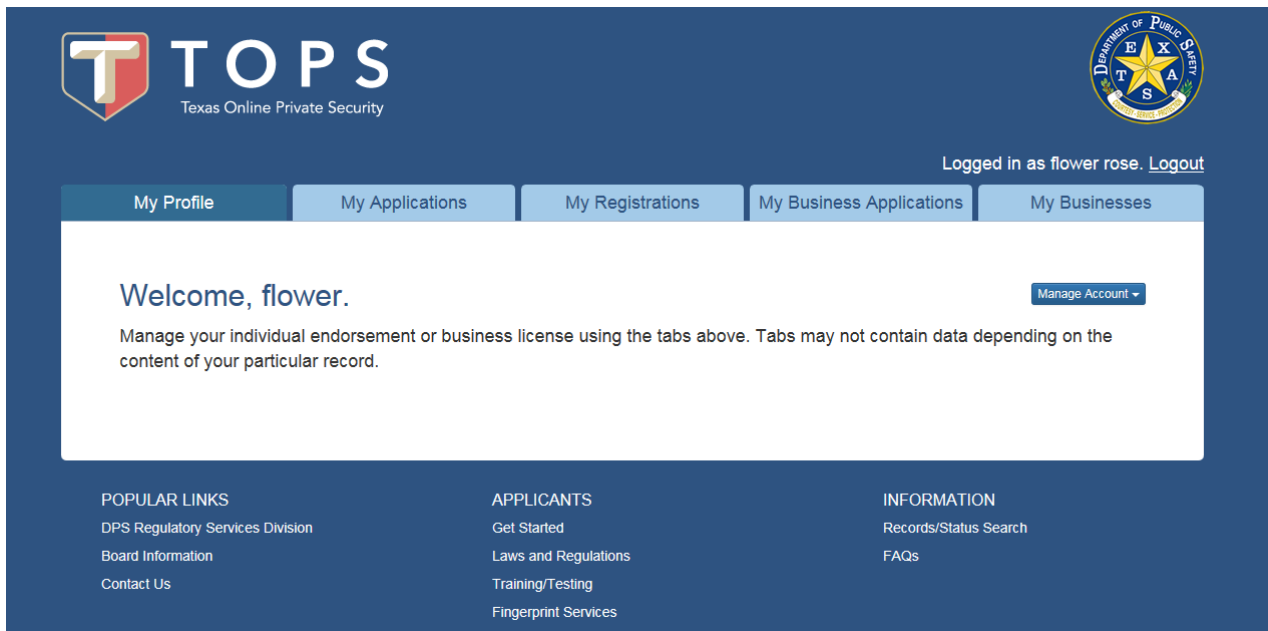
Type: Training School

License #: F00954

Renew

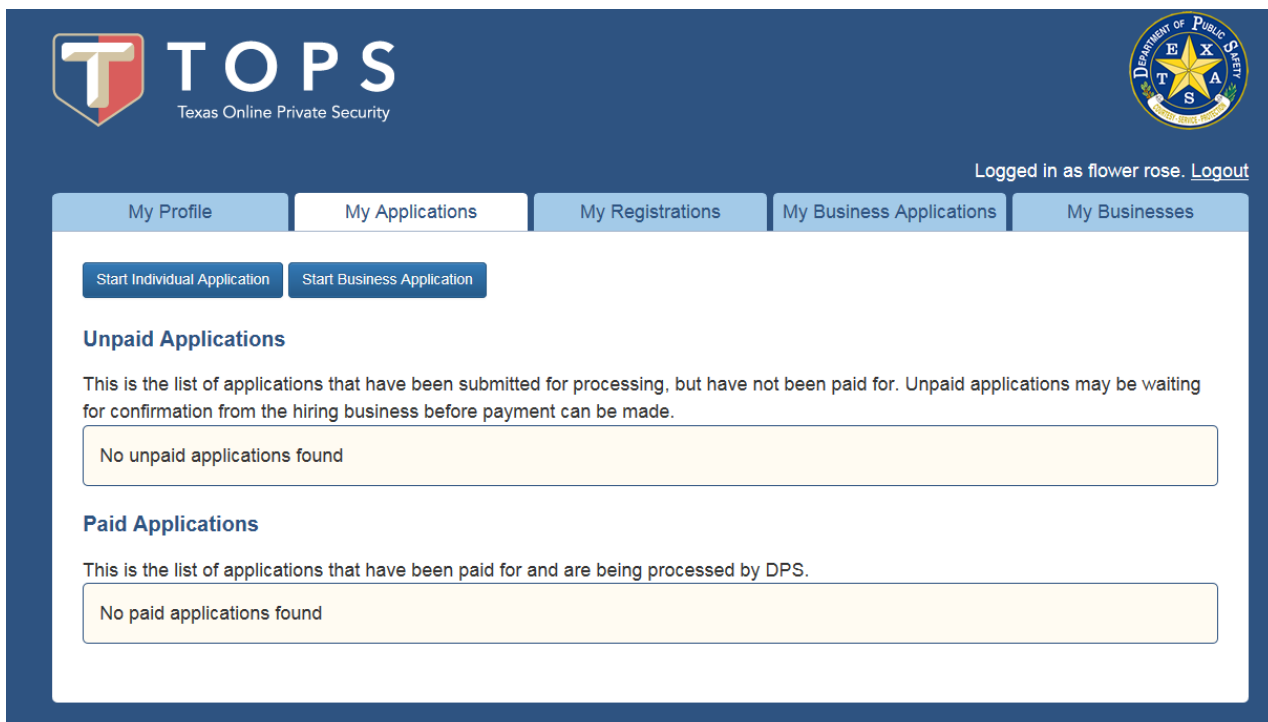
Status: Expired Expires: 11/30/2016

NEW Profile Layout: Each section is a separate tab, allowing the user to quickly access the information they need





My Applications: Divided into unpaid and paid.

1. Unpaid: applications pending employer verifications or employer verification has been completed and payment is required.
2. Paid: applications where the checklist is viewable to see progress of the application



My Registrations:





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[My Profile](#) [My Applications](#) [My Registrations](#) [My Business Applications](#) [My Businesses](#)

Type: Owner/Manager Registration **License #: 00001501** [Actions](#)

Endorsement	Issue Date	Last Renewal	Expiration	Status
Shareholder	08/11/2016		08/11/2018 (513 days)	Active

My Business Applications: Shows pending business applications and status of each stakeholder application if the business application has not been completed/paid



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Business Name: Michelle's Alarm Co. **Required Stakeholder Applications: 1 out of 2**
Status: Pending
Application Expiration Date: 03/31/2017

Name	Email Address	Role	Application Submitted?	Actions
guerrero, shelly	shelly2@y.com	Corporate Officer, Manager, Shareholder	Yes	
guerrero, rosemary YES	rosem@y.com	Shareholder	Not Required	
guerrero, rose NO	roseno@y.com	Shareholder	Not Required	
guerrero, shawn CorpShare	shawn@y.com	Corporate Officer, Shareholder	No	
rosemary's alarms	rose@y.com	Shareholder	Not Required	

My Businesses: Shows business for which you are a stakeholder, allows for employment verifications, renewals and employee pay to occur

View Details: Additional functionality – View/print certificate, employee report, update business



Logged in as flower rose. [Logout](#)

[My Profile](#) [My Applications](#) [My Registrations](#) [My Business Applications](#) [My Businesses](#)

Bindu's Class C all [View Details](#)

Type: Contracting Company



License #: C00001001

Status: Active

Expires: 07/31/2017

Employment Verifications

Name	Registration Type	Application Type	Received On	Address	Actions
petunia, polly	Non-Commissioned Security Officer	Original	03/16/2017	austin, TX	Add Hire Date Deny



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Business Details

Below is a list of the information associated with this business. To renew or update this information, please scroll to the bottom of the page and choose Renew or Update.

Business Information

Business Name	Business License Number	Expiration Date	Type
Bindu's Class C all	C00001001	07/31/2017 (137 days)	Contracting Company
Class	Services	Email Address	Phone Number
Investigations / Security Contractor	Private Investigation Guard Dog Armored Car Electronic Access Guard Locksmith Security Consultant Alarm Courier	jack@y.com	+1(342)424-2342
Physical Address	Mailing Address		
sadsa sdasd, TX 78756 Jack US	Same as Physical Address		

[View Certificate](#) [Employee Report](#)

Business Stakeholders

Name	Role	Issue Date	Expiration Date	Ownership Percentage	Role Status
Daisy, flower	Shareholder, Manager, Corporate Officer	08/11/2016	03/01/2016	0%	EXPIRED
rose, flower	Shareholder	08/11/2016	08/11/2018	50.0%	ACTIVE
				Total: 50.0%	



[Cancel](#) [Update](#)

Application Processing Checklist:

Shows a complete list of all required items for a paid inflight application along with the status for each item.

My Applications:

Locate the desired application from the Paid Applications list and select Checklist



Logged in as **NayNay Hedgehog**. [Logout](#)

My Profile

My Applications

My Registrations

My Business Applications

My Businesses

Start Individual Application

Start Business Application

Unpaid Applications

This is the list of applications that have been submitted for processing, but have not been paid for. Unpaid applications may be waiting for confirmation from the hiring business before payment can be made.

No unpaid applications found

Paid Applications

This is the list of applications that have been paid for and are being processed by DPS.

Registration Type	Application Type	Received On	Status Date	Status	Actions
Personal Protection Officer	Original	03/16/2017	03/16/2017	Pending	Checklist



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Application Processing Checklist:

View live customized list which will be updated as requirements are met. Use this checklist to know exactly which documents need to be submitted for this application; please submit only those items listed.



Logged in as **NayNay Hedgehog**. [Logout](#)

[My Profile](#) | [My Applications](#) | [My Registrations](#) | [My Business Applications](#) | [My Businesses](#)

Application Processing Checklist

This is a list of all the items required to complete the application you have submitted.

Armed Registration - Personal Protection Officer

Current Application Issues:

One or more required item is missing

Application has not been paid in full

No commissioned registration on file

Texas ID requires valid ID check

Prints Required

Requires place of birth verification

Checklist	Status	Last Action Date	Reason
Background Check			
Background Check	Incomplete		Prints Required
Business Affiliation			
Registration	Resubmit		No commissioned registration on file
ID Verification			
ID Verification	Resubmit	03/16/2017	ID Verification needs supporting documentation
Identification			
Marriage License	Incomplete		
Medical			
MMPI - Declaration of Psychological and Emotional Health	Incomplete		
Military Document			
DD 214 Form	Incomplete		
DEERS Document	Incomplete		
Proof of Out of State Registration	Incomplete		
Spouse Military Orders	Incomplete		
Place of Birth			
Place of birth verification	Pending Review		
Self Reported Condition			
DPS Verification	Incomplete		
Signature(s)			
Applicant's Signature	Success		

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11:00am - 1pm

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For More Info Contact:

LRG Rep. Kenny Hilton (713) 858-0803

LRG Inside Sales Support Hannah Ross (409) 384-4560

LRG inc

Calendar of Events

HGCAA meetings are held the second Thursday of each month from 11:30-1pm. See below for the locations.

Dates and locations may change as needed.

April 2017

4/13 - HGCAA meeting @ Tri-Ed (North)

4/18 - TBFAA Board meeting - Austin, TX

4/18 - Vanco Lunch & Learn @ Automated Outlet

May 2017

5/5 - TBFAA Household Fire Training @ Automated Outlet

5/11 - HGCAA meeting @ Bass Computers

June 2017

6/8 - HGCAA meeting @ ADI (North)

6/22 - TBFAA Board meeting - Dallas, TX

July 2017

7/4 - Independence Day

7/13 - HGCAA meeting @ Automated Outlet

August 2017

8/10 - ADI Expo

8/11 - TBFAA Household Fire Training @ Automated Outlet

8/17 - HGCAA meeting @ Tri-Ed (Pinemont)

8/17 - TBFAA Board meeting - Houston, TX

8/24 - TBFAA Fire Prep Training @ ADI (North)

September 2017

9/14 - HGCAA meeting & elections @ ADI (Pinemont)

9/28 - TBFAA Level 1 Training @ Tri-Ed (North)

**PLEASE THANK OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
FOR PROVIDING FOOD AND
HOSTING OUR MEETINGS
BY PURCHASING THEIR PRODUCTS**

TBFAA Report

Kelly Ryan, President

Spring is in the air and summer is just around the corner, and one thing is certain – it will get hot! For those of us that live in and around Houston, we generally expect it, but that doesn't mean we should ignore it.

Now is a great time to review your all your safety policies with your employees – especially those related to working in the heat. Just because we live here and we know it gets hot, we shouldn't assume that everyone knows the signs & symptoms of heat related medical conditions.

Just after I entered the alarm industry, I was fortunate to work for a company that was owned by a firefighter and EMT. One thing he did was regular safety reviews. Not only did this help keep safety on the minds of his employees, it reinforced the thought that we were working for an employer that cared about the well-being of his people.

The State of Texas Department of Health & Human Services has a fact sheet on heat available at <http://dshs.texas.gov/preparedness/heat.doc>. Please take a moment and review the information with your employees. Even if they may have heard it before, it doesn't hurt to do a review!

Additional information is available through the "Useful Information" under "Member Info" on the TBFAA website. Please visit www.tbfaa.org for details, and while you're there, don't forget to register for the TBFAA Annual Convention & Trade Show. This year's show will be in the Houston area at La Torretta Resort on Lake Conroe, October 26th-28th.

Legislative Watch

I wanted to let you guys know that Van Mayorga and myself have been appointed to the TBFAA Legislative Committee to give input on upcoming bills that we are watching because they could affect our industry.

Right now the bills we are currently reviewing are:

- HB3115 - Relating to the regulation of certain professions under the Private Security Act.
- HB1654 & SB1117 - Relating to the offense of failure to comply with an order from a fire marshal and the authority of certain county employees to issue citations for certain violations.
- HB4248 & SB1626 - Relating to the authority of a state agency to impose continuing education requirements on an occupational license holder.

I'll do my best to get more opinions and details on these as we get closer to dealing with them.

Regards,

John C. Helweg



DPS Audit Checklist

We were recently given the current [DPS Audit Checklist](#) that they are using to review our files. I've posted it on the [HGCAA web site](#) for your reference. It's on the main page on the lower left. There are also links to the [TOPS company/employee search](#), complaint forms, etc.

Please take a minute to familiarize yourself with the many offerings on the HGCAA web site.



FM Notice: Reminder on registration/license numbers
In March 2012, the State Fire Marshal's Office began the conversion to a new licensing software program. For many companies and licensees, this resulted in being issued a new unique number. To lessen the impact of the changes, the State Fire Marshal's Office agreed that there would be a transition period of five years to allow companies to deplete their stock of service tags and business forms bearing the old numbers.

As 2017 approaches, the State Fire Marshal's Office is reminding that all items should now be displaying only your currently issued registration and license numbers. This includes service tags, labels, vehicles, signs and business forms. After March 1, 2017, the old numbers must not be used or displayed.

The State Fire Marshal's Office wants to thank everyone for your patience and cooperation through this process. Based on comments received over the last four years, we believe the new system has proven to be worthwhile and resulted in better customer service.

You may view this [FM Notice on the SFMO website](#).

Question	Baytown	Dickinson	Fort Bend	Friendswood	Galveston
What is your building code? What edition	IBC, 2009	IBC, 2015	IBC, 2012	IBC, 2012	IBC, 2012
What is your fire code? What edition?	IFC, 2009	IFC, 2015	IFC, 2012	IFC, 2012	IFC, 2012
What is your electrical code? What edition?	NEC, 2011	No	No	NEC, 2011	NEC, 2011
What edition of NFPA 72 do you use?	NFPA 72, 2007	NFPA 72, 2013	NFPA 72, 2013	NFPA 72, 2013	NFPA 72, 2010
What edition of Life Safety 101 do you use?	No	No	Reference if listed in IFC 2012	Life Safety 101, 2012	Life Safety 101, 2012
How often do you review and adopt new codes?	Approx. every 6 years	3-6 years	We review every year and complete a full evaluation on the current year. We are on the 2012 but due to some local AHJ's we are looking into the 2015.	No more than every 2 cycles	We constantly review newer code editions for guidance, adoption has generally been every other code cycle.
What is your code cycle?				3-6 years	
Do you have any amendments? If so, please provide a copy of the url of your website.	No	Yes, available within Municode	Yes. They are provided on our website. www.fbcfmo.org	FDC has to be remote of building and have a strotz connection. Location to be approved by the Fire Marshal. https://www.municode.com/library/tx/friendswood/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICICO_CH30FIPRPR	Yes, available on Municode
Do you use Municode	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Building codes generally make any structure at 75' above street level a high rise. Is this true in your jurisdiction?	Follow building code	Yes	Yes	The city restricts building heights to only 45 feet.	
What special requirements do you have for a high rise?	None	None	Currently any high-rise would require a meeting with our office and Engineering for requirements to discuss any requirements.	None	
Do you require notification in storage rooms? Electrical Rooms? HVAC Rooms? Telecom Rooms?	Only as required by IFC and NFPA 72	Case by case	Yes. Depends on project for telecom rooms	Depends on size	

Question	Baytown	Dickinson	Fort Bend	Friendswood	Galveston
What is the minimum rooms size that requires notification? i.e. square footage?		Case by case	According to NFPA 72 2010 and 2013 Edition, Chapter 18 and its appendices, specific installation, spacing and location of strobes is dependent upon the size and configuration of the area to be protected. Requirements are based on square room size. If the room configuration is not square, the size square that will encompass the entire room is to be used.	200 sq. ft.	
Do you have a plan review checklist?	Yes	No	Yes, and it can be found on our website or contact the assigned inspector to send it to the company.	No	
Minimum scale?	1/8"-20	No	n/a	1/8"	
Number of copies?	2 paper, 1 digital	2 copies	2 copies	2 copies	
Do you accept electronic submission?	Yes	Currently No, but will for revisions	Yes, but contact office prior to submitting electronically for proper procedures.	We can but they will not be approved electronically. Only hard copies are approved.	
Do you accept paper plans?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Will you stamp extra sets?	Yes, all sets	If requested	Yes	Yes	

Question	Deer Park	Rosenberg	Harris County	Sugarland
What is your building code? What edition	IBC, 2012	IBC, 2012	IBC, 2012 in Harris County Fire Code addendum	IBC, 2015
What is your fire code? What edition?	IFC, 2012	IFC, 2012	IFC, 2012 with Harris County Amendments	IFC, 2015
What is your electrical code? What edition?	Currently we use 2014 National Electrical Code and in September we are going to the 2017 National Electrical Code	NEC, 2011	State of Texas adopted 2014 NFPA 70	NEC, 2014
What edition of NFPA 72 do you use?	Most current addition for new installations and whatever edition was in place for existing systems.	NFPA 72, 2010	NFPA 72, 2013	NFPA 72, 2013
What edition of Life Safety 101 do you use?	No	No	Rarely, NFPA 2015	No
How often do you review and adopt new codes?	As the necessity arises, we will research and make changes as needed.	Every Other Cycle	Maximum, every 2 code cycles	Every 6 years
What is your code cycle?	Every 2 cycles as of right now.		2012 current, 2015 next, 2018 or 2021 future	N/A
Do you have any amendments? If so, please provide a copy of the url of your website.	The FDC must be located with-in 100 feet of a fire hydrant. Install pull stations with tamper covers at all egress doors. Require 10% safety factor on sprinkler They are on the website under “contractor packet” www.deerparktx.gov plans. Duct smoke must have remote LED indicators and shall be capable of being reset.	Yes, on our website. Http://rosenbergtx.gov	Yes, www.hcfmo.net or www.eng.hctx.net/permits	Yes, https://www.municode.com/library/tx/sugar_land/codes/land_development_code?nodeId=CH7BURE_ARTIXFIPR_S7-57.2CODE
Do you use Municode	Yes	Yes	No	Yes, https://www.municode.com/library/tx/sugar_land/codes/la
Building codes generally make any structure at 75' above street level a high rise. Is this true in your jurisdiction?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
What special requirements do you have for a high rise?	None at this time other than what the code requires. We do not have any high rise in Deer Park.	Currently we have no special requirements	None other than requirements identified in the IFC/IBC 2012; e.g., building service key sets	None
Do you require notification in storage rooms? Electrical Rooms? HVAC Rooms? Telecom Rooms?	If required by the standard	Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes	As required to meet IFC 907.5	Yes, Yes, Yes, No-but square footage could apply

Question	Deer Park	Rosenberg	Harris County	Sugarland
What is the minimum rooms size that requires notification? i.e. square footage?			As required to meet IFC 907.5	Varies
Do you have a plan review checklist?	Yes	No	Yes (see attached document)	No
Minimum scale?	Legible		Any architectural scale	No minimum
Number of copies?	(2) sets hard copy and (1) set on a disk	3	1 paper	3
Do you accept electronic submission?	We have not begun allowing electronic only submittals yet. Will be coming in the near future.	No	Yes	No
Do you accept paper plans?	Yes	Yes	Yes, prefer electronic	Yes
Will you stamp extra sets?	Yes	We will stamp all copies that have been submitted	No	Yes

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Can A Smart Home Replace Security Guards and Video Camera Surveillance?

All homeowners are concerned about protecting their property against burglars and break-ins, especially those in the luxury market. Home automation is quickly becoming a reality, allowing individuals to control certain aspects of their home through the simple click of a button on an internet-connected device. Since security guards and video camera surveillance can significantly increase security overhead, smart homes can offer a way to lower those costs while still maintaining a keen eye on one's property.

What is a smart home? A smart home is a home that is equipped with devices that can transmit data. These devices can control lights, electricity, and locking systems - which can be accessed remotely from an internet connected device, like a cellphone or tablet. The home automation market is predicted to grow, with experts putting its market value well over \$10 billion by 2020 (Source). The ability for technology to integrate naturally within a home may seem strange now - like an amenity only applicable to multi-million dollar mansions - but in a decade the IoT technology will likely become standard in many middle-class homes.

What elements does a smart-home control?

Lighting, heating, and security devices can all be set up with smart technology. Just about any device in the home can be "smart-equipped" to transmit data, from the front garage door to the refrigerator in the kitchen. Moving forward, the most important elements of the home will likely be developed first, in accordance with the value they can give homeowners. The more pressing issues like security and energy savings will take precedence over convenience needs. The public is unlikely to large-scale development

smart-coffee-makers and smart-showers in the coming years, for example. The bulk of the dollars home developers will invest in will be home security.

What's wrong with current home security methods

Human labor is expensive. Having patrol-personnel onsite or security guards monitoring video camera feed is also ineffective. This report found that security guards miss over 75 percent of the activity on their screens, even when well-rested and alert. Take into account human error, training costs, and the increasing minimum wage, and you have yourself a formula for a void in the market that will be capitalized on.

What can be done to improve security surveillance?

Current video camera surveillance technology provides a live feed that a human needs to look at in order to determine if there is an intrusion. Smart monitors have a large upfront cost, but allow technology to monitor the area for you. Otherwise, video cameras may alert you, the homeowner as to any activity passing by the front of the camera. Hunters have actually used this technology in order to spot wild game like deer. Modern video cameras alert the owner when an object passes in its field of vision. With a smart home connected to the municipal grid, police and fire departments can be alerted in real time, showing up on time to catch the perpetrator red-handed or the fire before it begins to break out.

Integrating smart homes into daily living

With the ability to link up smart locks to cell-phones, you can know what times your children and housekeeper walked in the home. With the ability to turn on lights even when you are hundreds of miles away, you can give the illusion that you are home, deterring burglars from breaking in.

Final thoughts

The technology that will replace security guards and CCTV video surveillance is not quite there yet, but it is getting there! Great improvements are being made in order to integrate locks, doors, A/C and heating, and video surveillance technology into the 21 century. I've observed that efficient home locks and key security systems are in great demand. People are increasingly seeking more robust and powerful technology as a means of security and protection.

Moving into 2020, society will see increased dependence on smartphone technology. It will serve as a command center that allows property owners the ability to monitor their investment wherever they may be.

About the Author: Craig Bretzlaff is a luxury real estate specialist who has been recognized as a top producer in the Palm Beaches, Florida. With his expertise in residential real estate and luxury home building Craig prides himself on sharing his knowledge and experiences with his clientele so that they can make informed investment decisions.

SOURCE: IoT Evolution - <http://www.iotevolutionworld.com/smart-home/articles/429599-a-smart-home-replace-security-guards-video-camera.htm>

By Craig Bretzlaff, February 13, 2017

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Dear NAPCO StarLink Dealers:

We are happy to announce an update of the NAPCO StarLink NOC that eliminates the need for Silverlight to be installed on the computer. The result will be a smoother and much faster experience, with radio lookups now happening in a fraction of the time.

This update also provides the ability to access the NOC and configure StarLink intrusion and fire radios using an iPad or Android tablet. Simply access the NOC using the tablet's browser and all basic and advanced NOC functions will be available.

To access the updated NOC, we suggest that you delete and recreate any browser bookmarks and clear any previously cached URLs for the NOC website, as your browser may point to the old URL. The URL to access the new NOC is: <http://napconoc2.com>

Additionally, for your customers that use the My Home StarLink App, we recommend suggesting they update to the latest version from the Google Play or Apple App Store.

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City of Houston Fire Alarm Detail

I'd like to clarify an email that we sent out a couple weeks ago. We sent out an email on behalf of the Mayor's Office requesting a list of all Commercial Fire accts that you've installed, inspected or monitor. We mistakenly said to email the list to the HGCAA Board.

We followed up with a second email clarifying to email your list directly to [Steven David](#) with the City of Houston Mayor's Office. No one from HGCAA or any competitor will see your data. Please be confident in complying with their request.

The City of Houston isn't after you or the alarm company, so please comply with their request. They are asking, not demanding, for this information so they can follow up with the commercial properties to make sure they have a current CoH Fire Alarm permit and that the systems are being properly maintained.

It is my belief that this will help us and the industry by preventing the customer from getting heavy fines for not having their fire alarm permit. It will also help us convince customers to keep the system in proper working order because the City is going to enforce the fire tags when we report a problem with the system.

[City of Houston – Commercial Fire Alarm List](#)

Regards,

John C. Helweg, President
HGCAA

Houston Alarm Detail

Check with the [City of Houston to make sure your company is listed on their alarm permit web site](#). They have a specific form you need to fill out and submit to them for inclusion.

You also need to be [sending municipalities notice of alarm system activation](#).

Please make sure your customers are using the most [current alarm permit form](#).

Harris County Alarm Detail

Please make sure your customers are using the most [current alarm permit form](#).

Montgomery County Alarm Detail

Check with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office to make sure your company is listed on their alarm permit web site.

Please make sure your customers are using the most [current alarm permit form](#).

[Alarm ordinance](#) - Montgomery County are actively ticketing homeowners that don't have alarm permits.

A Word from the Editor Vacant

This is my seventh issue of the HGCAA Communicator Newsletter. It's been tough pulling double-duty as President and Editor, but so far I've been able to make it happen.

I hope the articles I choose have been to your liking. When I see an article or content that I think is interesting, I try to make a note of it so I can share it with you guys. It's tough culling through the 20-30 sources of content to get the few articles that I like, but I'd like to think it's well worth the effort for you guys.

On that note, you may notice that I published a note about the Napco StarLink Management site update. We happen to install Napco equipment, so I get their technical messages. However there are plenty of manufacturers that we don't typically install. It would be a huge help to me if you guys would [email me relevant technical updates or articles](#) from manufactures that you sell so we can have a diverse newsletter.

Regards,

John C. Helweg, Ad-Interim Editor

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