

Alarm Companies Should Apply For Additional Radio Channels Now

Possible Application Filing Freeze on the Horizon

The **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)** is considering adopting new rules to auction private radio spectrum, which could include the radio channels used by alarm companies for dispatching and alarm signaling.

The **Central Station Alarm Association** is working to demonstrate to the FCC that the traditional alarm dispatch and signaling channels should be exempt from any auction.

However, in case this effort is not successful, **now is the time for alarm companies to apply for any additional channels they will need for the foreseeable future.**

The FCC has not yet imposed an application filing freeze to prepare for the auction process, but it is considering such a freeze in the very near future. Therefore, it is advisable to apply now while you still can obtain licenses without buying them at auction.

Not only will auctions be more costly, but they are likely to package spectrum in a way that may not be suitable for your needs. The service area and number of frequencies you must buy may be too large to be affordable.

Help CSAA Avoid FCC Auctions

CSAA is in the process of having its counsel, Blooston, Mordkofsky, Jackson & Dickens, prepare comments designed to demonstrate to the FCC that alarm company signaling and dispatch operations should be exempt from any future spectrum auction because they are providing an important public safety service.

CSAA will need the help of its members to successfully persuade the FCC that the public safety exemption should apply to alarm companies.

Therefore, we ask our members to help with this effort by providing the information requested in the attached form.

Once you have completed the form, mail or fax it back to:

John Prendergast
Blooston, Mordkofsky, Jackson & Dickens
2120 L Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 30037
Phone: 202-828-5540 Fax: 202-828-5568
jap@bmjd.com



Central Station
Alarm Association

Signals

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

If you have been a member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for at least 6 months, don't forget to attend the Technical Report Session of the 1999 World Fire Safety Congress & Exposition on Thursday, May 20 and vote in favor of NFPA 72-388.

This addition to NFPA 72 will require prime contractors of proprietary fire alarm systems and remote station fire alarm systems to conspicuously indicate that the fire alarm system providing service at the protected premises complies with all the requirements of the National Fire Alarm Code by providing a means of "third party verification."

WHAT: Technical Report Session
1999 World Fire Safety
Congress & Exposition

WHERE: Baltimore Convention Center

WHEN: Thursday, May 20, 1999
8:30am starting time

WHY: To vote for NFPA 72-388



VOTE YES FOR NFPA 72-388

Please help CSAA avoid FCC auctions. Complete the following form and mail or fax back to John Prendergast at the address below. Don't forget to include any supporting documentation.

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Washington, DC 30037
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Name _____

Company _____

1. Alarm customers/responses: Please provide figures concerning:

a. the number of customers you serve (to be kept confidential)

b. the number of alarms responded to over the last year, and the last five years (if available), with a breakdown of burglary, fire and medical responses, if possible.

2. Medical emergencies: Please provide information on:

a. the number of medical emergencies detected through alarm monitoring, and

b. any estimates of the number of lives saved.

3. Public safety agencies: Please describe

a. the number of times that an alarm signal resulted in the dispatch of local government police, fire or rescue units.

b. Please include a description of your cooperation with these agencies, and the extent to which your radio operations are used to help coordinate a response with these agencies.

- c. Include statistics and individual accounts of criminals being apprehended as a result of an alarm response, and

- d. a description of how your operation helped to save state and local government resources. Include any statistics if available.

4. Horror/success stories: Please provide anecdotal information about:

- a. individual success stories where the availability of alarm service helped to save a life, reduce property damage or apprehend a criminal.

- b. Likewise, provide any examples of tragedies in your area which may have been prevented by an alarm monitoring service.

5. Congressional customers: Please identify:

- a. any members of Congress that are customers of your alarm service and indicate your willingness to discuss the spectrum auction issue with them
