



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the Louisiana State Fire Marshal

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date: May 23, 2013

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State Fire Marshal Issues Fines to Unlicensed Security Alarm Employees

Baton Rouge, LA – With the hot summer months fast approaching, a time when many home security system companies solicit sales by canvassing neighborhoods, Louisiana State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning would like to encourage homeowners to be vigilant in making sure that those selling these systems are properly licensed through his agency. Two recent incidents involving unlicensed security alarm employees underscore this concern.

Browning stated that in response to complaints from the Hammond Police Department on April 26, 2013, regarding numerous security salespeople going door-to-door in several Hammond subdivisions, Fire Marshal deputies were dispatched to ascertain whether the salespeople and their company were licensed. Subsequently, eighteen (18) unlicensed individuals were located and fined in the amount of \$500.00 each, with an additional fine of \$1,000.00 being assessed to the supervisor of the employees. The firm involved, Skyline Security Management, Inc., which was licensed at the time was also fined in the amount of \$18,000.00 and is now facing a proposed revocation of the firm's license.

The second incident involved a complaint by a councilman in Tallulah who contacted the State Fire Marshal's Office on May 8 after a person knocked on his door attempting to sell a security system. Deputies from the Licensing Section of the Fire Marshal's Office responded the next day and made contact with two (2) unlicensed employees of Axis Security, Inc., a licensed, Covington-based company. Each of the unlicensed individuals was fined \$500.00 each for their actions. In addition, the company was also fined.

"As the regulatory agency responsible for licensing firms and individuals that install security alarm systems, we must be proactive in identifying anyone who thinks he can work without a license", Browning stated. An extremely important part of the licensing process includes criminal background checks on those who sell and install these systems as well as requiring these individuals to have the proper training to ensure competency. "It's all about protecting the lives and property of our citizens and ensuring that convicted felons are not in homes and businesses. Everyone we license will have a photo identification card issued by my office. Just ask to see it to ensure they are licensed," the Fire Marshal concluded.

Anyone having questions or concerns about an alarm company or individuals attempting to sell systems can contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal, Licensing Section at 1-800-256-5452.