An Alarming Situation!

I have a security system at home that monitors the garage interior and entrance, my home's front entrance, living room, safe and file cabinet in my office, the back door, kitchen and dining room sliding doors and finally the furnace and the dog's bed.

Actually that is not true. The camera that is supposed to monitor the dog and the furnace is not plugged in. Because I can't find it right now. I know it is here somewhere!

Questions?

Is a security device that is meant to be in place and working, but is not in place and working going to protect anything? I think we all know the answer to that question. **No!**

My system is designed to keep an eye on everything I can't watch all of the time. When properly working it notifies me if anything unusual is going on. When part of it isn't working I am blind in that area.

Your patient security system is more sophisticated than mine. Not only does it monitor exit points, it can control egress by locking doors in advance of someone trying to take a patient somewhere they shouldn't be. If they try to hide the signal or remove the protective tag the system alerts the staff and locks the doors. The question for you is, "How do I know that it is always working properly?'

Your facility was thoroughly tested and verified when the Hugs system was installed, however, it is suggested to perform checks on a regular basis to ensure optimal performance, as conditions can change over time.

Monthly Testing is the Norm

While some hospitals perform a weekly test of the doors. Most sites test on a monthly basis. It is a fairly simple procedure that is often cared for by the Security Team or a trained member of the Nursing staff. The following paragraphs detail each area of testing.

Testing Procedures

1. Admit a Hugs Tag and name it "Test Tag" on the computer. Maintain skin contact with the back of the tag and the strap for five minutes. This ensures that the computer is in good communication with the Test Tag. With someone at the computer to clear the alarms proceed with the test.

2. **Exit Testing**- Typically exists are set up so that when you approach a closed door that is protected you should hear the magnetic lock activate (click). If you stay in range of the door for a prescribed time you may have Loiter Alert (not set in every case). When approaching an open door with a Test Tag you should cause an Exit Alarm. Select system testing from the alarm notes and clear on the computer. Follow this procedure at each of your protected exits.

3. **Tag Loose Alarm Testing**– To perform this test. Remove the Hugs tag from your fingers. After 25-30 seconds the computer should announce a Check Tag Tightness Alert. It will flash the strobes in the hall. Two minutes later the Alert should elevate to a Tag Loose alarm. This will lock the doors to prevent someone from leaving. Have staff check protected exits to prove that doors locked. Put the tag back in contact with your skin. Clear the alarm on the alarm page using a testing system note and clear at the bottom right corner of the screen.

4. **Tamper Alarm Testing**- This is typically done as the last test because it requires cutting the tag band. When you cut or pull the band off the Hugs tag, within a few seconds you should have strobes, audible alarms and exit points locked. Since your test is complete you can clear the alarm with a system testing note and the clear button. Then, if you have no other tests to perform, immediately discharge the Test Tag.

A spread sheet to test your particular system was provided at installation. Call us if you need help locating that document. Call our technical team if you need assistance the first few times you test. What is inspected will give you a better result than what is expected. **Plan to Win!**

"What we do on some great occasion will probably depend on what we already are: and what we are will be the result of previous years of self-discipline."

H. P. Liddon, Educator

By Randy Terrill, Business Development Representative, IMS

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