

TRANSMITTER



Protecting the people of Oklahoma

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Hot Topic: Background checks by electricians

Statehouse forced issue to a pact

Issue: Legislative help was pivotal in getting regulations changed to favor our industry.

Up until this spring, a loophole in industry regulations allowed electricians to install alarm or fire systems *without background checks*.

"It was basically an electrical exemption to our law," said Paul Conrady, OKBFAA past president and owner of Edmond Security Inc.

"When these electricians did go through a background check, some were identified as felons. Business owners and homeowners have to have confidence in not only the product they are receiving, but the installer as well, regardless of whether they are an alarm technician or not."

As a resident in their districts, Conrady took the Association's concerns to the State Legislature, specifically State Rep. Marian Cooksey and State Sen. Clark Jolley.

"When I went to them and told them that none of the electricians had to have background checks, they expressed some concern, to put it mildly," said Conrady. "That's when they decided to try to introduce legislation to make this a requirement."

Three years ago, Rep. Cooksey and Sen. Jolley co-sponsored a bill that would do just that.

"Our job as legislators is to protect the public," said Rep. Cooksey. "Every citizen should have the assurance workmen entering their home are not convicted felons."

However, when it came time for the bill to go to a legislative committee for review, the Oklahoma Construction Industries Board, OKBFAA and electricians had already come to a consensus to make a change in the electricians' rules. That change would require electricians who install burglar and/or fire alarms to undergo a mandatory background check.

"The bill was pulled as the result of all parties working together to reach an agreement outside of legislation," said Cooksey.



State Rep. Marian Cooksey
District 39



State Sen. Clark Jolley
District 41

"That's really the more desirable outcome." The change in the electricians' rules was to have gone into effect July 1 and, although it's been delayed, the Association is not only looking forward to working collaboratively with electricians in the public's interest, but to working with the State Legislature in the future.

"They (Cooksey and Jolley) went to bat for us," said Conrady. "If it hadn't been for them and their pressure on this thing, we wouldn't have ever gotten to this point."

The OKBFAA board is pleased to announce the annual association meeting this year will be held at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum.

"This is an outstanding venue for any event, but is of particular importance to our industry," said Mike Nelson, OKBFAA president. Please plan on attending and getting involved

Registration information will be mailed to all members and associate members.

Annual meeting

6-9:45 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 17

Oklahoma City National
Memorial & Museum

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From the President **Insurance plan under consideration**



Mike Nelson
President

largest clients are Texas and California.

The insurance program is for all associations, and our board would need to decide if we want to offer the NESAs plan to members.

The plan would have two primary advantages. First, the primary plan would carry the standard liability coverage, but discounts could involve General Liability Insurance and Errors and Omissions coverage.

Secondly, NESAs would form a panel of experts to review trends and ensure policies offered fit the benefits needed.

Here is a summary of the plan:

- Covers General Liability, Errors and Omissions coverage.
- Is real conventional insurance not a risk-retention group.
- Provided by First Mercury Insurance – an admitted carrier – rated “A-VIII” by Am Best
- Offer of a discount, which is based on the volume of premiums sold: \$0 to \$150,000, 0 percent; \$150,000 to \$500,000, 2 percent; \$500,000 to \$1 million, 3 percent; more than \$1 million, 5 percent. El Dorado has enough existing customers interested to get NESAs to at least the 2 percent level.
- Conversion to the plan or new discount level with member renewal.

Other products are available to members, including: Workers Comp; Business Auto-Fleet; AIG-Homeland Health Care Plan- Limited Benefit Health Insurance; Fidelity Bonds; Performance Bonds and Property Insurance, among other coverage a company may desire.

We want the members to be aware the association is working on your behalf to help you in your business. Thank you to association past president and board member Paul Conrady for working directly with NESAs on this.

We welcome additional involvement. Please let our executive director Wanda Day know if you are interested in reviewing the proposal.



Calendar

2008 NESAs Certification Classes

Burglary, Codes/Standards with electronics, Fire, CCTV/Access Control
Nov. 7-9
Best Western, Stroud

The NESAs program expands your knowledge of the constantly evolving world of electronic security and life-safety systems. Classes will be available if 10 or more students are enrolled. For more information and registration, please visit www.okbfaa.com.

OKBFAA Meetings

Annual meeting
6 p.m.-9:30 p.m.,
Oct. 17

Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum

Next member meeting
9:30 a.m. Dec. 4
Tulsa - Location to be determined

State Advisory Board Meetings

Alarm & Locksmith Advisory Committee
State Department of Health, Room 806
1000 N.E. 10th Street, Oklahoma City
9 a.m. Oct. 1
9 a.m. Nov. 5

Officer Election

The nomination committee of OKBFAA respectfully submits the slate of officers for the 2009 term. The floor will be open to other nominations at our annual meeting in October.

All officers listed on this page at left are up for reelection, except for two changes: First Vice President, Rick Spring; Past Presidents: Pat Redpath (in addition to Paul Conrady).

Industry Notes

How to get your signs, decals back

Q: We see our signs at locations that used to have service with us but cancelled, and at locations where they never had service but our signs are there. Do we need permission from the homeowner/ business owner to go on their property to do so?



Ken Kirschenbaum

A: The answer is clear. It depends on what your contracts provide. Your contract should provide signs and decals remain your property and are removable if the relationship terminates. Then, at least you know you have the right to remove them from that property.

You should not enter upon a subscriber's premises without permission to remove your property. Of course, that permission can be in your contract and nothing more would be necessary, especially to remove a lawn sign that is probably out near the street. Window decals may be more of a problem and you probably will have to abandon them. You could commence an action to compel removal but it's not likely to be cost effective.

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Working for You

Two issues of critical importance are facing our industry that directly affect you:



Paul Conrady
OKBFAA past president
and owner, Edmond Security, Inc.

- During a State Advisory Committee meeting, discussion surrounded alarm time-outs on all fire alarm systems. The State Fire Marshal has stated that he would like to see this time-out removed from all fire alarm systems. Conversations surrounding whether this is even feasible are occurring.
- If you are installing transformers on heat-and-air fan receptacles, or if you are installing controls in a non-ventilated room, such as in a closet, you may be in violation of National Codes and Standards.

Do you want to learn more about these issues? These will be topics of discussion at the next OKBFAA board meeting on Oct. 17 at the annual meeting in Oklahoma City. (See calendar). For more information, call Wanda Day, executive director, at (918) 231-1696 or visit www.okbfaa.org.

Membership drive

Membership information and an application form can be found on the OKBFAA website, www.okbfaa.org. Membership is open not to just industry businesses, but to companies which service the burglar and fire alarm industries. Please consider passing along the application forms to your distributors and others.

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Member profile

Fast-friends, now neighbors

David Butler and Stacey Rushing have been best friends since college in the early 1980s, a relationship they have transformed into a successful business partnership.



David Butler and Stacey Rushing, right, of Imajenus

In 1999, the two formed Imajenus Inc., a Broken Arrow-based technology systems integration company. As co-owners and with their team of 10 employees, Butler and Rushing use their experiences from the electrical, process automation, security and telecommunications industries to create 21st century solutions.

“From the very beginning, our desire has been to embrace our employees and nurture growth, development and dedication from within an extended family environment,” said Rushing. “It’s absolutely the best thing that I ever did.”

Imajenus specializes in designing and providing integrated lighting and control systems. Clients include chemical and other manufacturing facilities, property management companies, high-rise office buildings and municipal governmental agencies. The

company is licensed as an electrical contractor, as well as by the Federal Communications Commission.

Butler, originally from Tulsa, and the love of his life Kimberly have three sons – one at college in Michigan, one in Missouri, the other in Texas – and five grandchildren. Rushing is married to Imajenus Business Manager Claudia. They have two young daughters, and live next door to the Butler family on acreage. Both men state that there’s little time off, but what they enjoy most when away from the Imajenus family is spending time with their children.

“It just doesn’t get any better than this,” said Butler. “We are brothers in arms, we are best friends, and as a team, we produce a much better product than any one of us could develop alone, and the best part is that we get to work with people who enjoy and appreciate being together.”

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