

## **REDEFINING HOMEOWNER SECURITY**

### ***Security & Fire Detection Evolving to Accommodate All***

Several hundred years ago, would-be thieves were effectively deterred from home invasions by the presence of a moat. In the 20th century, security systems became commonplace; burglar alarms were developed to protect occupants and the physical contents of properties. As we become an increasingly digital society, security needs have evolved. Fortunately, security systems are evolving to accommodate our busy schedules and “virtual” lifestyles.

Security systems are no longer defined solely as the monitoring of various entry points of a home. Pete Panagakis, President of Advanced Security Technologies, Inc. (AST), says a homeowner needs to be aware of innovative ways to protect their home. Sump pumps can be monitored to prevent potential flood damage. Temperature controls can be added to a security system to prevent pipes from freezing as well as fire monitoring. All of these household systems – including the traditional alarm system – can be remotely monitored by homeowners via telephone and the Internet.

Panagakis also says seniors still leading an independent lifestyle could benefit from a Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) which is designed to afford extended families the ability to monitor loved ones, including medication and daily task reminders, environmental safety detection (including smoke, flood and carbon monoxide), and inactivity (fall) monitoring. “These systems allow seniors to continue living independently while giving them and their relatives greater peace of mind,” says Panagakis.

According to the National Burglary and Fire Alarm Association, PERS sales and use are expected to post above-average growth, even in these currently challenging economic times. This growth can be seen as an indication of this comprehensive home safety and emergency system’s performance and ease-of-use.

These same progressions in technology have, unfortunately, opened up homeowners to new levels of vulnerability. “These days, it’s not just about someone breaking into your home and stealing a new plasma TV,” says Panagakis. “If you have a 20-year-old home security system, you’re really at a minimum level of protection. You’re not securing everything you own. With all of the electronic information transmitted nowadays, identities are open to theft.”

By utilizing various technological tools, including firewalls, Panagakis says homeowners may rest assured that personal information is secure from intruders.

“Homeowners need to realize that a great deal of what they own – what they hold valuable - isn’t tangible,” says Diane Panagakis, who works in the business with her husband. “If someone hacks into your bank account or gets your credit card numbers, you’re looking at months of work to clear your name and restore your good credit score.

“By securing everything entering and leaving your home, you secure your way of life,” she says.

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### **About Advanced Security Technologies, Inc. (AST)**

Locally-owned and operated in Lake Zurich (IL) by Peter and Diane Panagakis, AST provides security and fire detection services, including the latest in equipment advances and around-the-clock monitoring, for homeowners and businesses throughout the Northwest suburbs of Chicago. AST is personally in touch with securing your way of life. To learn more, visit [www.nwchicagosuburbansecurity.com](http://www.nwchicagosuburbansecurity.com) or call 847-540-9166.