



Beeping Panel Guru

I must confess, I'm one of those people that's been sold into the idea of a 'nationwide' gym membership.

In theory, I can go to a gym in pretty much any city in the UK. In practice, I don't. However a couple of weeks ago, I was in Birmingham and guess what, there was a gym there. So I strolled down to the Birmingham gym only to find it was near identical to my local gym.

Same layout. Same equipment. **Same beeping fire alarm.** Yes, this gym has a faulty fire alarm panel. Yes, my gym has a faulty fire alarm panel. Yes, I have offered to take a look; an offer which they have never taken me up on. And yes, the panel is still probably **beeping right now...** Grrrrrrr...

I suppose you could call it consistency, but it's not exactly the kind of consistency most people crave. In this incident (and many more I come across regularly) the organisation and the

individual in charge of the building are risking catastrophic consequences by muting or ignoring faults on their fire panel.

Other faults may build up behind the one shown on the panel and although you may think you are only muting/ignoring the minor fault that is shown on the panel, you could actually be dismissing other more serious faults that build up behind it too.

Dismissing or ignoring the faults can often become habit, and there's not much more dangerous. If you'd like to understand more about why you should break this habit and report a fault on your panel the moment you see it, flick over to page 3 for Scott's article.

I hope you enjoy this month's Newsletter!

Paul Field

Beeping Panel Guru at WFP



HELP A CHARITY



Cardiomyopathy^{UK}
the heart muscle charity



**enter our
competition!**

see page 2...

ANOTHER
COMPETITION
TO WIN
£25
AMAZON
VOUCHERS!



Check out our NEW videos and guides:
www.youtube.com/user/WFPWIREFREE

Call us on: 01277 724779
www.w-fp.co.uk

COMPETITION: Multiple choice quiz - 'Your Responsibilities'

**Last month's
'monitoring quiz' answers:**

1. What is monitoring?
a. The way in which your system automatically calls the Police and Fire Brigade.
2. Which of the following cannot be monitored?
d. Banana
3. Which of the following is not a brand of monitoring?
a. Bluecare
4. Why do people monitor their alarms?
a. To automatically call for help, i.e. Fire Brigade, Police or Keyholder.



Tick one answer for each question.
Then for your chance to win a
£25 AMAZON VOUCHER, either scan
or take a picture of your answers and
send them to feedback@w-fp.co.uk.

All correct entries will be placed into our
prize draw. The winners will be picked live
on our Facebook page at 4pm. The deadline
for sending your word search to us is 20th
February 2017.

1. Which of your fire systems has to be tested weekly?

- a. Fire extinguishers
- b. Call point
- c. Match boxes

2. Which system has to be tested Bi-Annually by a 'competent person' i.e. WFP engineer?

- a. Emergency lighting
- b. CCTV system
- c. Fire system

3. What test is required to be carried out annually on your emergency lighting systems?

- a. 3hr discharge test
- b. Check the carpet for hidden treasures
- c. Replace the emergencies in the lighting

4. Which two systems are you often required by law to have spares on site for?

- a. Apples and pears
- b. Fire systems & emergency lighting
- c. CCTV and door access

PS. I have a sneaky tip for you, if you are struggling with any of the questions - check December 2016's newsletter.

Your name:

Your email:

Your telephone number:

Please tick which charity you would like us to donate £3.00 to:



Cardiomyopathy^{UK}
the heart muscle charity

**Helen Rollason
Cancer Charity**



If you have any questions then call us on: 01277 724779

Like us on Facebook

@wfp Tweets

www.w-fp.co.uk

What would the Judge say?

Last week I had a conversation with someone regarding the responsibilities for having a fire alarm system within their premises.

When fire alarm systems report faults or become prone to false alarms, they can quickly become a nuisance.

When they start to become a nuisance it is easy to forget their purpose and simply see them as something that can disturb your day or potentially empty your business of customers. These disturbances can be minimised by having your fire alarm system serviced.

End user's responsibility

What you may not be aware of is that under The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 it is the nominated end user's responsibility to make sure that their fire alarm system is serviced and in full working order. After all, it is a system intended to save lives – it needs to work properly.

The gentleman I spoke to during the week had been requested by his insurance company to provide a service certificate from a fire alarm specialist stating his system was in full working order.

Worst case scenario

As the person responsible for your fire alarm system, try and picture a worst case scenario where your fire alarm system did not work



Here's James showing you how to test a call point (one of your weekly responsibilities):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Sq0X47BYuE>

and you found yourself in court in front of a judge explaining why a life safety system you were responsible for was neglected. Without any record of testing and inspections do you think the judge would accept “well it works”?

That's exactly what this gentleman was wanting. Someone who would just give him a certificate without checking for themselves that it did in fact work correctly.

No certificate

As you can imagine, we didn't issue him with a service certificate simply based on his assertion that “it works”, and he was not prepared to make the investment required to have it serviced and inspected to ensure it was fit for purpose.

If this story throws up a few alarm bells for you (pardon the pun), give me a call and I can go through your responsibilities with you.

Have a great month!

Scott Wright

Contracts Manager at WFP

T: 07791 952341

E: scottwright@w-fp.co.uk





Top Tips - cut out & keep guide: Understanding Monitoring 2.0



Yes, you're right. We have written about monitoring before... however, since we put out the first piece on monitoring, we've had plenty of conversations with people who wanted to know more. So, we're back, with more!

There are two main monitoring brands:

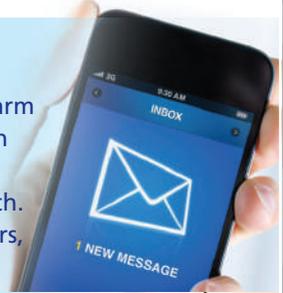
- Redcare (the monitoring equivalent of Hoover).
- Dualcom (less well-known than Redcare, but can offer better value for money).



What does monitoring actually do?

Quite a lot really. It will monitor your:

- **Security/Intruder System** – Between the time you set your alarm when you leave your premises and deactivate the alarm when you re-enter, your building is completely on its own. Without monitoring, no one will be notified if there is a security breach. With monitoring, you will get a text and any other key holders, as well as the option of alerting the police.
- **Fire System** – Your fire alarm should be on and functioning fully 24/7. Again whenever you leave your building empty (e.g. for a school it may be the holidays or for a business it may be outside of working hours), without monitoring, your building is unprotected. If the fire alarm goes off, then (unless someone nearby at the time hears and calls the fire brigade) no one will respond and until you are back the next morning or even after the weekend, who knows how much damage could have been done?



Why would anyone bother monitoring?

- Often it is the case that your insurance provider requires you to have monitoring at your premises. As well as this, if no one is in your building, you'll want peace of mind that the building will be safe and secure even when it is empty.
- Monitoring will automatically notify you, your key holders, the police and the fire brigade when your fire or security system sensors are triggered and keep your building safe when no one is there.



If you have any questions then call us on: 01277 724779



Like us on Facebook



@wfptweets

www.w-fp.co.uk