

# Five-Year Study of Verified Alarms 2014 - 2018

**Covering Greater Boston, Central Massachusetts, Southern New Hampshire and Rhode Island** 

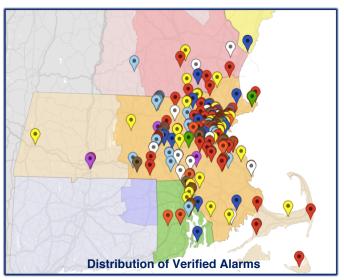
Regional Security Report

by American Alarm and Communications Inc.

### Scope of Study

- American Alarm operates a 24-7 command center in Arlington, Massachusetts that monitors its professionally installed and maintained security and fire alarm systems at nearly 30,000 locations in New England.
- The monitoring center is UL-Approved and Five Diamond Certified. All signal data presented is from code-compliant systems that are subject to inspection by public authorities.
- The monitored locations are primarily in Greater Boston, Central Massachusetts, Southern New Hampshire and Rhode Island.
- Approximately 50 percent of the monitored locations are residential. The remaining are a mix of large and small businesses, educational institutions, medical facilities and government buildings.
- During the five-year period of 2014 to 2018 the command center staff handled 1,644 verified alarms.
- A verified alarm is defined as a signal caused by an actual event that posed a threat and required intervention.

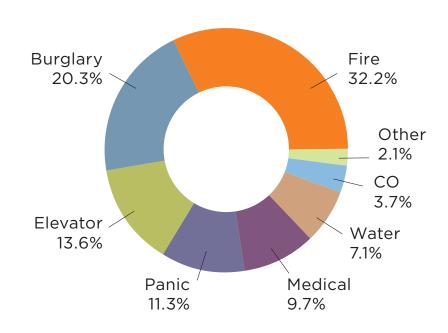


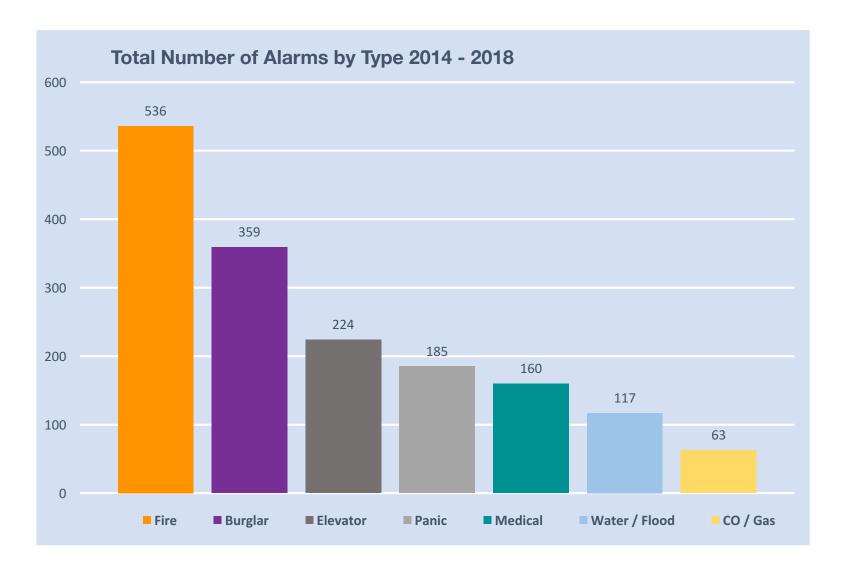


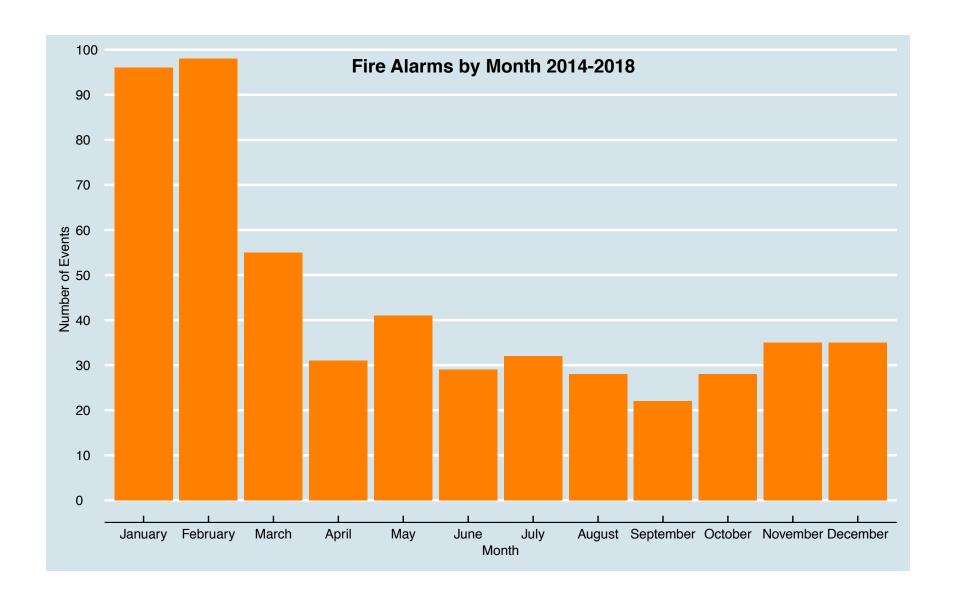
## Summary of Results

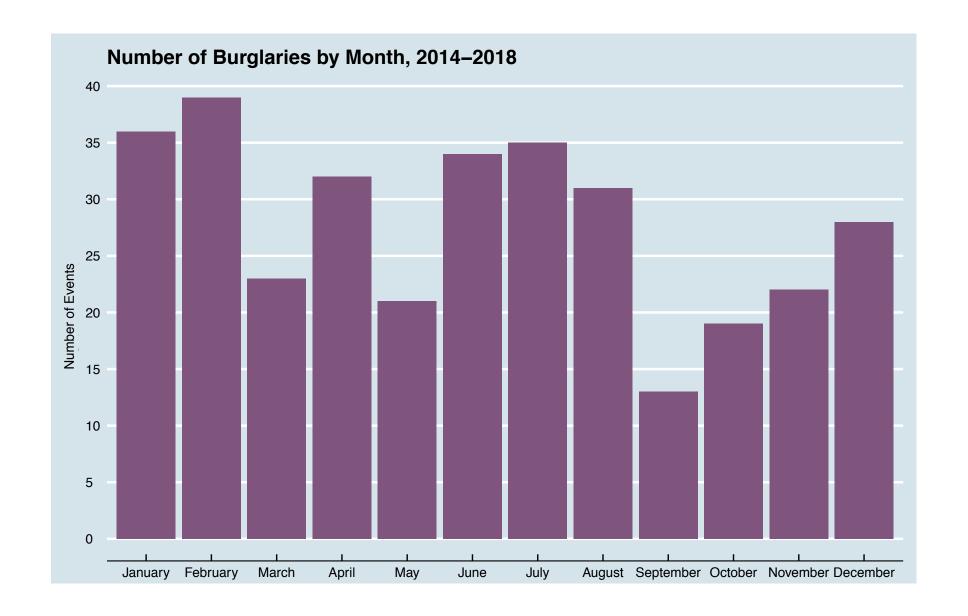
- Fire is the biggest risk for residential and commercial property, followed by burglary.
- Fire alarms spike in January and February, doubling the monthly average.
- Burglar alarms are more frequent during the summer and winter months.
- Burglar alarms are concentrated in the late evening and overnight hours.
- Panic alarms peak in the mornings and afternoons at banks, and in the late evenings at gas stations and convenience stores.
- Elevator alarms are mostly from commercial buildings and clustered during business hours.

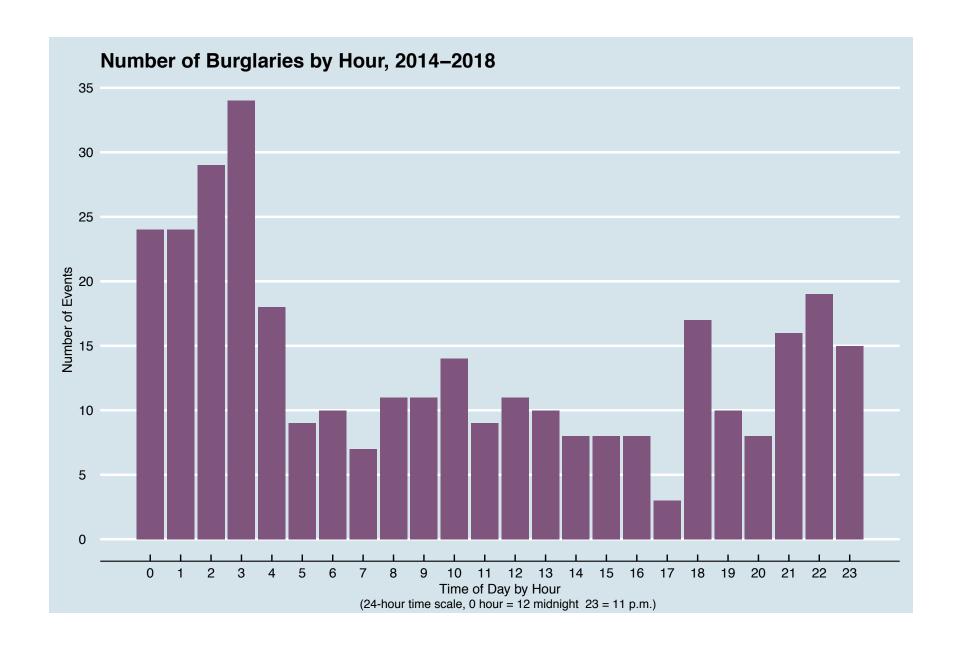
#### Verified Alarms by Type

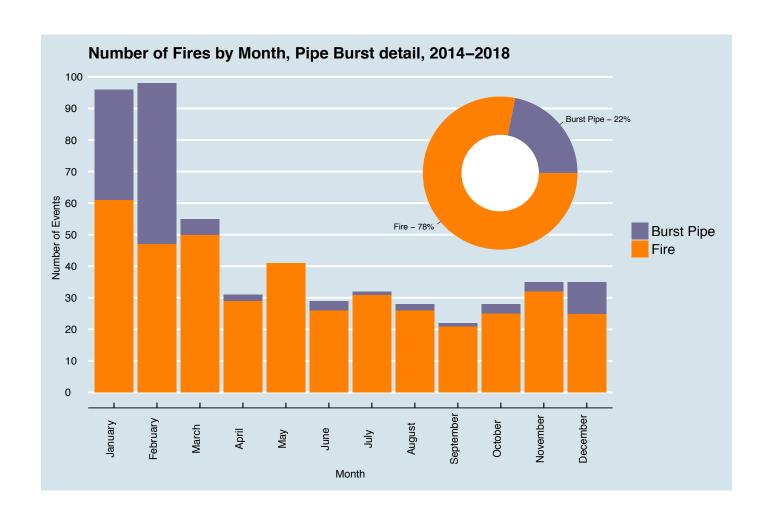








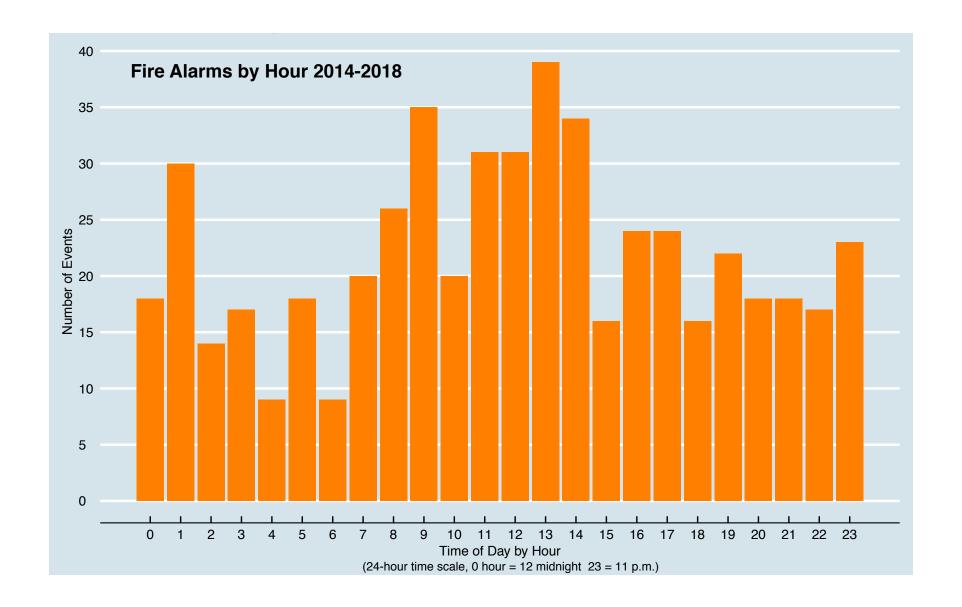


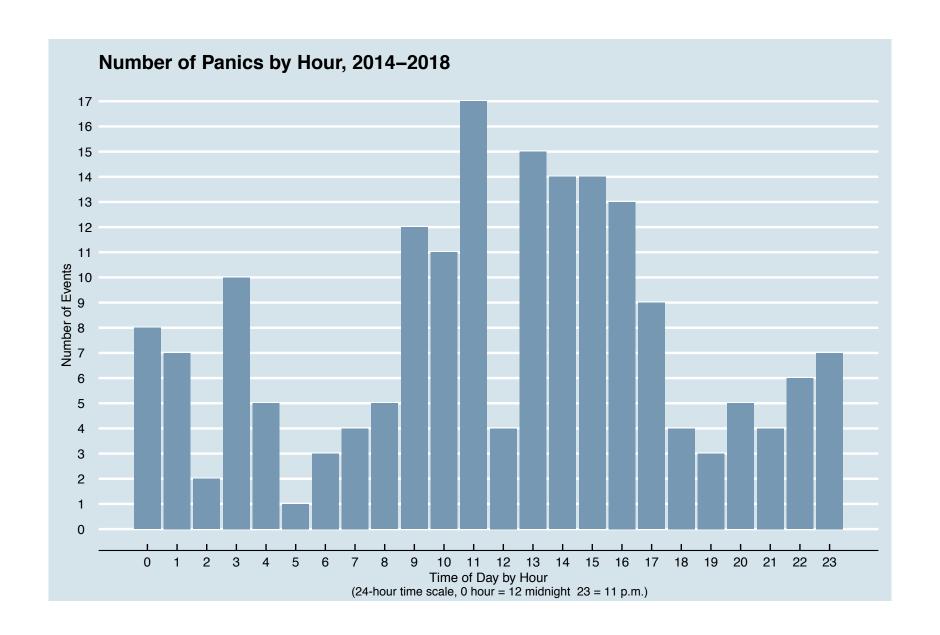


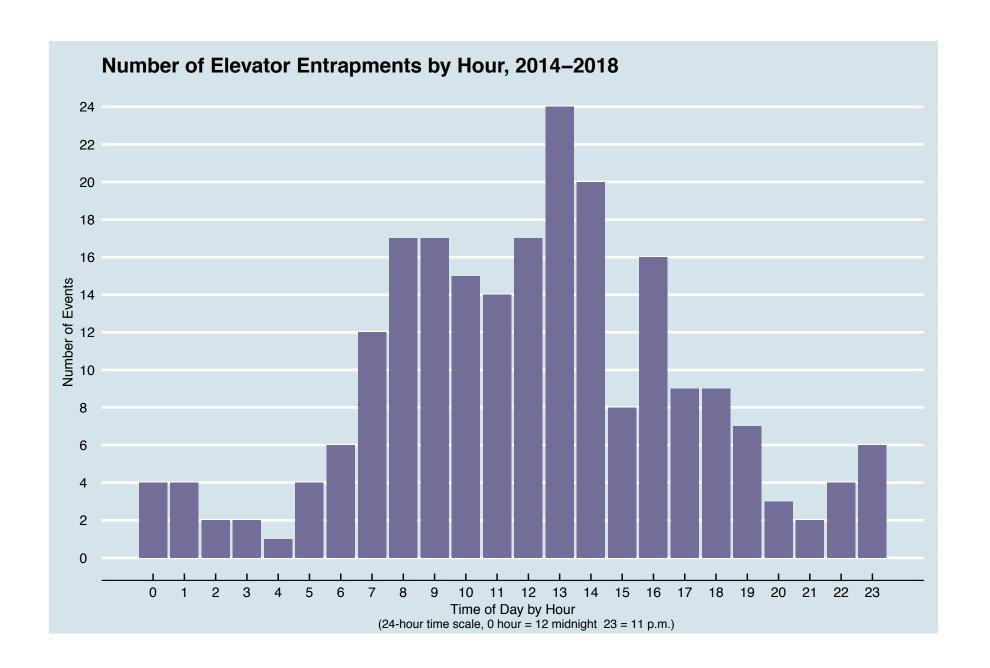
#### Frozen Pipes

In January and February fire alarms doubled the monthly average, often caused by furnace malfunctions, chimney fires or problems with alternative heating sources, including wood stoves and space heaters.

Many fire alarms received during those months were caused by frozen pipes that burst and tripped a fire alarm sensor.







American Alarm and Communications was founded in 1971 in Winchester, Massachusetts by Richard "Dick" Sampson, Charles Staples and Bruce Wedlock, three engineers who met at MIT. They were early innovators of the electronic fire alarm industry, and eventually expanded into security systems.

Today, American Alarm is a comprehensive security and life-safety systems integration and monitoring firm. The company employs 270 people at six locations in New England, including Arlington, Auburn, Randolph and Weymouth, Massachusetts; Warwick, Rhode Island and Manchester, New Hampshire.

American Alarm provides a full range of security and life-safety systems and monitoring services for all classes of property, from single-family homes to businesses large and small, to major public and historic venues. American Alarm is a certified Homeland Security provider for state and federal governments.

American Alarm is a licensed Systems Contractor under the Massachusetts Board of State Examiners of Electricians (No. 1212C MA) and also under the Mass. Department of Public Safety, with equivalent credentials in other states as required. All of the alarm signal data presented here comes from professionally installed code compliant systems using UL Listed, industry-standard equipment, subject to inspection by the Inspectors of Wires. "Do-it-yourself" grade equipment and systems are not utilized by American Alarm.