



Alpine Fire Protection District  
1364 Tavern Road Alpine, CA 91901  
Phone: 619 445-2635 Fax: 619 445-2634

## INFORMATION BULLETIN

### CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY TO NEW AND EXISTING FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

Effective January 01, 2015, the Alpine Fire Protection will no longer accept the use of telephone lines as means of communication to transmit alarm signals from your alarm panel to the monitoring company.

*In coming years the FCC will no longer support using telephone lines for transmitting alarm signals.*

The upcoming approved means will be through wireless mesh networks. Therefore, everyone that has a digital communication system will be required to upgrade and install a current alternative transmission method.

It will be in your best interest to update your main alarm panel as soon as possible. The FCC Recommendation to discontinue the use of telephone lines is by 2018. If you wait until you're up against the deadline, you may be faced with rising costs and problems with your system.

The current telephone lines for your digital transmission that you currently have can cost between \$35 to several hundred dollars per month. With the new system, you will pay a one-time fee for the communications box along with installation, and a monthly service fee for the cellular service. Each company has their own rate.

The reliability features of the wireless mesh system are much more efficient and cost effective. When one node can no longer operate, the rest of the nodes can still communicate with each other. Mesh architecture sustains signal strength by breaking long distances into a series of shorter hops. With telephone lines, if the lines are down, you have lost the line of communication from the alarm panel to the central station monitor.

Please contact the fire inspector at Alpine Fire Department with questions regarding the upgrade.