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Albert Simonson, Bajamar

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I think burglar alarms are much better than motion sensing lights because they are much more likely to draw the attention of neighbors and/or security. Also, it is unnerving to the burglar when the siren is on.

Home Depot in Ensenada has an alarm system, but it doesn't look as good as the ones at Lowe's in San Diego. We have put in two systems with no failures or false alarms yet. They are wireless and the signals will pass through a grouted block wall. For narrow, long houses you need a signal repeater due to distance.

If you have pets, you have to aim the motion sensors high. They mount on ball joints.

You will spend half a day reading instructions and testing it, or you can have it done professionally.

I used to install alarms for our tenants, but they usually don't use them until after a burglary. Before is better.

Many Bajamar houses have too much vegetation between houses. We cut enough low growth so the security guards can see between the houses.

Alarms alone can't prevent break-ins, but they make your place less attractive to burglars and, at worst, the burglars are less inclined to do a thorough ransacking with that siren blaring. They don't know if it's hooked up with Bajamar security or not, or even who else hears it.

I recommend, at the minimum:

Control panel, \$26
Extra siren near garage door, \$30
1 or 2 motion sensors, \$20
Yard stake sign, window stickers, \$13
Repeater, \$23
Plus batteries which last
6-12 months.

This is good information so I got permission to reprint it from BajamarAndBeyond@aol.com.

It refers specifically to the situation at Bajamar... but it makes sense to apply the principles here in La Mision. You might want to contact them and get on their mailing list.

Editor's NOTE