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DECEMBER 1990



Kinks & Hints

Solutions to installation problems

Superior protection for consumer electronics stores

By Allan B. Colombo
Associate Editor, SDM

Are you adequately protecting your customers, asks Martin Mongiello, Aegis Security National Inc., Pensacola, FL. He suggests that the proposed security plan described in "How to Secure Consumer Electronics Stores," June, p 83, falls short in several areas.

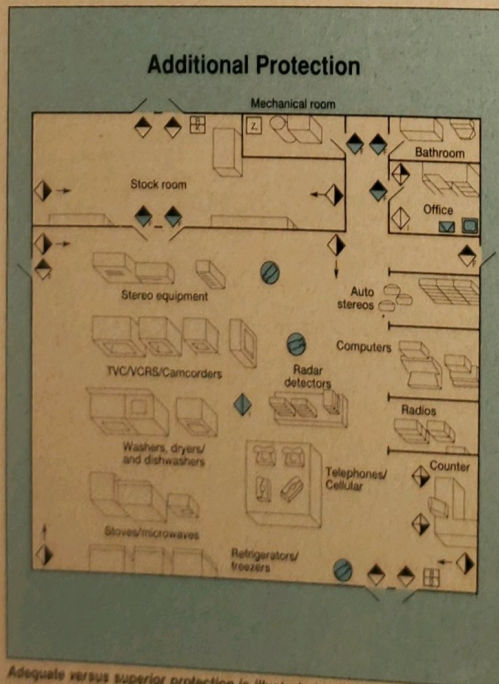
Mongiello would have installed a switch on the mechanical room's

entry door (see illustration). Since this room houses the alarm control panel it automatically becomes a target. Should I go one step further and remind all of us to watch for ventilation vents in utility and mechanical rooms? Too often installers fail to consider these as points of entry. A thin burglar, a pry bar, and a set of wire cutters are all that's necessary to compromise an alarm system. It doesn't take a big pouch to carry these tools.

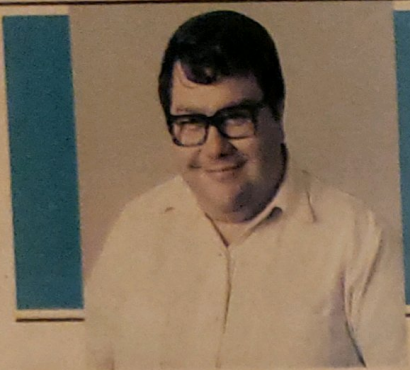
Mongiello points out that more protection is necessary inside a store. More PIRs for the auto-stereo, radio and computer departments; the use of electronic shoplifting systems for TVs, VCRs, telephones, and cellular telephones; and CCTV domes and cameras throughout the store's showroom would better round out the store's over-all protection.

On another subject, Mongiello feels strongly that the alarm industry should take a closer look at better ways to combat the hit-and-run burglar. In locations on the fringe of a police department's jurisdiction, response time is sometimes slow. It's usually here where the hit-and-run burglar does the most damage. His objective is to break in, take what he wants, and get out before the police arrive. No matter how effective an alarm system is, it is no more effective than the police department's response time.

"A tear gas dispersion system



Adequate versus superior protection is illustrated in this floor plan that appeared in SDM, June, 1990. Adequate protection equipment is shown in black print and superior protection equipment in blue.



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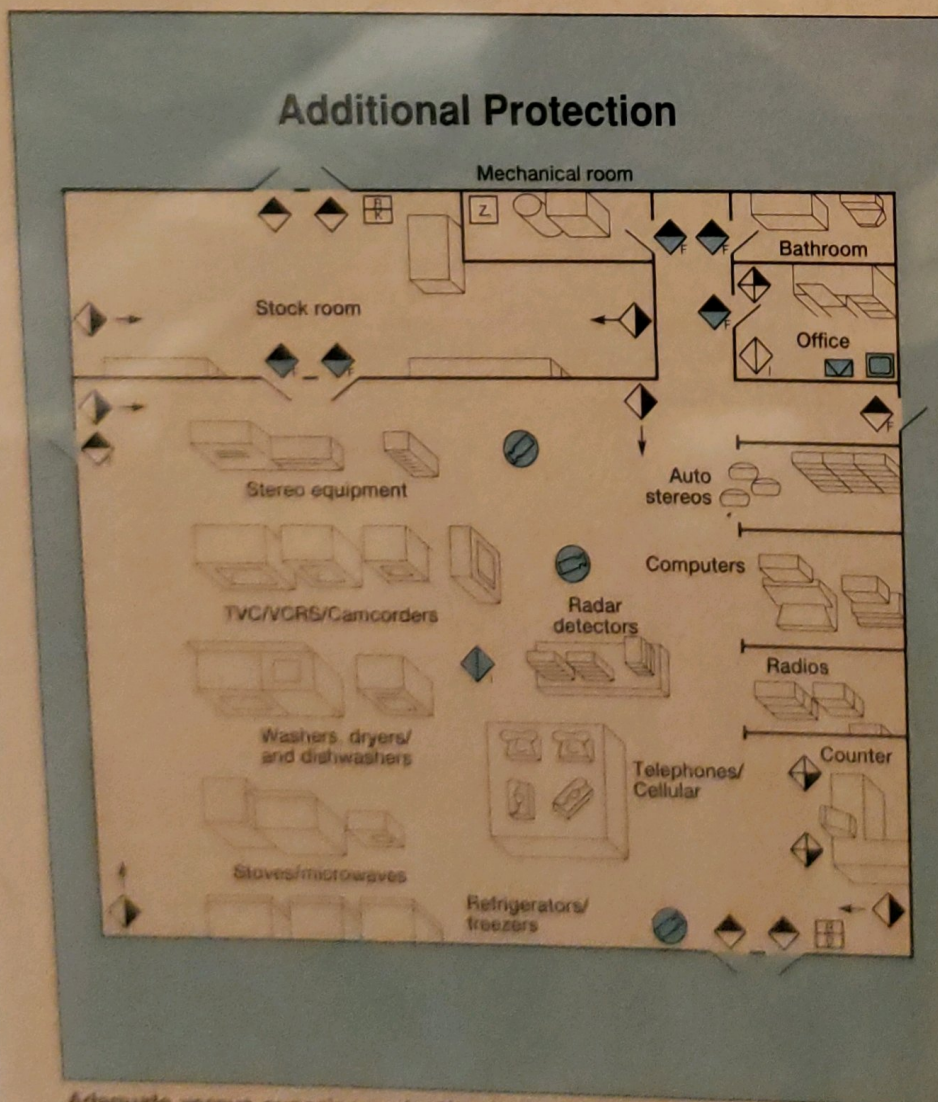
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Key

- Z Zoned control unit
- R Remote control - digital keypad
- K Remote control - keyswitch
- H Hold-up/panic button
- C Cash drawer money clip
- P Passive infrared detector
- D Dual-technology device
- S Contact switch (surface)
- F Contact switch (flush)
- D/C Dome and camera with pan/tilt
- M Monitor
- T/L T/L recorder