



...to the first edition of the Guard -Alert Gazette for the year 2013. Thank you for the positive feedback received on the past issues of the newsletter. This issue contains a feature of the Internet Protocol, guard-dog training and Guard-Alert's corporate social responsibility initiatives. Read on...

Guard-Alert Security expands

Guard-Alert security has expanded its security foot-print in Zimbabwe through the acquisition of Mine-Tech's guarding contracts. This move was accompanied by the taking over of personnel and guards numbering more than 380. This also resulted in the formation of a company, Minetech Zimbabwe, which is now part of the Guard-Alert Security Group.

Formed in 1994, Minetech's core operation was the provision of demining, explosive ordnance disposal and specialised security. After acquisition, Minetech Zimbabwe's core business is now the provision of specialised security services only. The company, known for its intensive training and selection procedures as well as the high standards of security services provision prides itself in having well turned out guards who have benefitted from the best guard training services in the country. It is no wonder then that the existing clients always testify to the professionalism of Minetech Zimbabwe guards.

Security services are provided to various embassies such as the Canadian, Mozambican and French Embassies and blue chip companies such as Old Mutual, Meikles Africa and National Foods.

Supervision of the guards is carried out by a capable staff of Managers and Operations officers, who ensure that the client requirements are adhered to all the time. Each contract premises is equipped with a radio guaranteeing that the guards stationed at each contract can easily get in touch with the 24-hour manned control room, in case of any emergencies which require immediate back-up.

Guard-Alert Security which prides itself on the provision of professional security services to its clients, welcomes the addition of Minetech Zimbabwe to its group, and looks forward to maintaining the high standards it has been well known for in the past 36 years of its operations.

Cash in Transit- What to consider



The increase in the rate of crime in our country means that business owners should avoid at all costs, the transportation of their daily takings by themselves. Though it seems thieves appear to have a sixth sense when it comes to sniffing out cars which are carrying a lot of money, one should be aware that, thieves do their surveillances of premises and study daily habits thoroughly before they decide to strike. Because of this, Armsec, the Guard-Alert armoured division, highly recommends the use of their services for the safe transportation of daily takings or valuables, to a venue that would have been arranged with them.

Armsec, carries out CIT service for its customers, and as a professional company, they meet the following requirements, which should be fulfilled by any company which decides to undertake this service. Armsec is duly registered and licenced in terms of the Private Investigators and Security guards Act. The company is also insured and the sum insured is according to the money or valuables that are transported on the client's behalf.

When one engages Armsec a contract should be entered into between them and the prospective client. The contract will be the *modus operandi* of when the services will commence, the type of service the frequency, the charges, the insurance cover, termination and notice period when necessary, and arbitration should there be any areas of disagreement.

Armsec prides itself in that it has fully armoured vehicles which will guarantee safe transportation of money and valuables. The cars are made out of bullet proof armoured plates and have bullet resistant windows. The car roof is also armoured. The vehicles are equipped with two vaults, with the inner vault being used for cash or valuables' storage. The vehicles are radio monitored and equipped with satellite tracking, for ease of detection should any mishaps occur. Radios are linked to the 24 hour manned control room ensuring ease of communication between the control room and the crews. In that way, clients are assured of the safe transportation of their valuables and an effective back-up should there be any eventualities.

Armsec details also go through an intensive training regime, ensuring that they are ready to face any eventualities should they be attacked during the course of their duties. Police clearance and instant vetting are carried out to check for any records of previous criminal activity. Firearm training is carried out at inception, and regular refresher courses are carried out to ensure continued competency in the use of the firearm. The firearms include pistols, revolvers, rifles and shot guns, and each of the crew members should be adept at their use.

Clients can therefore be rest assured when using Armsec for their valuables and cash transportation, as they will be dealing with a company which is fully equipped to perform the task optimally as well as one which is duly registered and licensed by the relevant authorities. These factors always stand the company in good stead when prospective clients need to select a company that will transport their money professionally and on time.

Analysing Security Needs

Are all entrances guarded or alarmed? Yes: _____ No:

Is it possible to leave the building without passing a guard or activating an alarm? Yes: No: _____

Is there a security officer on the dock? Yes: _____ No: Not Applicable: _____

Is the building staffed by security 24/7? Yes: _____ No:

Are the galleries staffed by Security personnel whenever staff is in the galleries? Yes: No: _____

Is there a shift supervisor position for security? Yes: _____ No:

Are there relief officers or is staffing reduced when officers take breaks? No Problem: Problem: staffing is reduced: _____

When absent, were security officers alert and effective? Yes: _____ No: _____ NA:

Did the officers make a good appearance? Yes: _____ No: _____

The analysis of security needs, known as security surveys is essential before commencement of guarding services at any given contract. Security surveys are one way of ensuring that Guard-Alert Security clients are not offered a one-size fits all approach to their security needs. They are carried out systematically and are conducted by experienced Security Officers and Managers.

Security surveys are meant to identify security exposures in a methodical and thorough manner. Therefore, the security assessment is based on a broad analysis of all aspects of the company premises, rather than being simply based on the last security incident.

Security surveys involve examining every facet of the company or residential premises, in order to find out what the existing security situation is. Recommendations to either establish or improve existing security will be made in the report as well. This will ensure that the security offered at the premises will be tailor-made for the individual premises. As a result, security surveys ensure that expenditures for security are directed appropriately based on the premises and clients' needs. Resources are therefore optimally directed to the areas which need the most protection.

The goal of implementing a security survey is so that knowledge on how to prevent theft is gained. Broadly speaking, the security survey process is roughly divided into the following phases: asset definition (what needs to be protected), threat assessment (vulnerable areas of attack and analysis of past security incidents), compilation of security measures (recommendations of required security measures) and implementation. Each stage has to be implemented systematically to ensure effective implementation of security measures at the given premises.

Some of the aspects which are examined and included in the security survey report are as follows:

- Evaluation of existing physical security such as the type of perimeter barrier at the premises, whether this is a fence, a durawall, and to assess whether an electric fence is required
- The necessity of a fire-break around the premises which ensures that fires do not spread if a fire breaks out. The guard on duty will also have a clear view of the surroundings at the premises ensuring that they can easily detect intruders when they are approaching
- Adequate lighting at the premises which act as a deterrent to would be thieves as thieves do not like to operate in the full glare of lights
- The physical structure of the building is examined to identify vulnerable areas which can be potentially broken into. The assessment will look at aspects such as whether the building has burglar bars or not, the structure of the roof and security at the doors among other aspects
- A proper assessment of storage facilities and movement of cash at the premises will be assessed as this is a vulnerable area since the dollarization of the economy. Aspects such as where the cash is stored (safe or strong room), who holds the keys to the storage areas and who has access to the storage rooms
- The existence of regularly serviced fire-fighting equipment is essential and also of people who are capable of using it. The fire-fighting equipment should also be accessible so that it can be easily retrieved in the event of a fire

Vehicle protection tips



With the increasing level of crime in our country, it is no longer safe to drive around without being aware of one's surroundings. It is always important to be aware of the cars which are driving behind you, especially if the same car follows you for a long time. It will be worth it, if you can accelerate or slow down the car in order to be able to assess if the car behind you will match your driving behaviour and speed. Here are a few points which you should be aware of to prevent smash and grab incidents and hijackings:

- Plan your routes so as not to use the same one every day.
- Know where the nearest police station is located and have the police telephone number on speed dial in your cell phone contacts list.
- Be aware of suspicious vehicles following or people lurking near your gate and if there are do not stop at your destination, phone the Police.
- Be alert on approaching and stopping at intersections and always leave sufficient space to the vehicle in front in case you need to evade an attack.
- Be aware of and do not stop at obstructions in the road
- Never exit the vehicle with the engine running, especially when you are opening the gate at your house
- If you suspect you are being followed, drive to the nearest police station
- When driving always place your handbag and other valuables in the car boot or under your seat driving. Do not leave them on the seat or in view.
- If you discover a puncture shortly after starting your car be aware that this is very possibly a ploy to get you to stop and rob you so select carefully where you are going to stop.

As you drive from point A to point B, it is inevitable that you might need to make some stopovers as you do your shopping, or your banking. The same applies as you also do your school runs, as unfortunately thieves have taken advantage of the low level of security awareness at school car parks to commit crime. Here are a few pointers to watch out for as you go around doing your day to day tasks:

- Observe the surroundings carefully before you park your vehicle. Try and park close to a car park attendant or security guard.
- Be sure that there is no vehicle trailing you before you park
- Watch out for suspicious characters seated in parked vehicles
- Keep doors and windows locked at all times
- Do not leave bags, cell phones or any valuable exposed.
- Do not carry large sums of cash and do not leave cash in the car.
- Ensure that your car alarm is activated every time you leave the car unattended.
- When entering your car watch out for strangers who will distract you, by selling goods or saying something to you. Their accomplices might be robbing you!!

Crime Watch corner

While you are away- Holiday Security tips



Some of you might be travelling during the school holidays with your kids. To safeguard your valuables here are a few tips on how you can minimise the risk of a break in while you are away. The secret is, if you are unable to get someone to house sit for you, make it appear as if someone is at home and thus deter would be burglars:

- Lock everything before you leave, including the garage, the gates, shed and power box.
- If you have an alarm system, activate it. Give a neighbour or a trusted friend or relative a spare key and the alarm PIN so they can get into the house if needed.
- Set timers on lights and appliances, so they come on for a few hours in the evening - at times when you would normally be at home.
- Put valuables in a safe deposit box.
- Ask a trusted friend to clear your mailbox and put your bins out and in.
- Mow the lawns before you leave and arrange for them to be mowed while you are away.
- Don't leave a spare key in a secret spot in the garden. Burglars know where to look. Give a key to a trusted neighbour instead.
- Hire a reliable security firm such as Guard-Alert security where you can be rest assured that the contract will be under close supervision during your absence

Courtesy- <http://www.quotify.com.au>

Watch out...

Please watch out for your valuables at the Airport as there have been some break ins and bag snatching in the airport car-park. Remember to be vigilant as you pack your bags in your car and be suspicious of any individuals who approach your car, even if they are warning you of a flat tyre etc

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We would love to hear from you...

Please give us feedback on what you think of this edition of the newsletter. Please send your comments to guardalertpr@zol.co.zw