



GUARD-ALERT GAZETTE

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Total Security Solutions



Message from the CEO

Welcome and thank you for reading our first newsletter of 2017.

This year marks our 40 th anniversary, having started in 1977.

Guard Alert was started by the Farmers Co-op to look after its depots and got its name from the Co-op's other security related company, Agric Alert. Looking after their depots throughout the country laid the foundation for our industry leading branch network we enjoy today. Having started small we have grown steadily and today boast 4 divisions covering all aspects of security, employing over 3000 staff and providing the various services to 2500 customers.

The company was bought by management in 1981 and, apart from minor changes to comply with the Country's laws, remains the same to this day. We pride ourselves on our staff loyalty and the average length of service with us is over 10 years with some 500 employees having been with the company for more than 20 years.

We are also extremely proud of our client profile and have numerous that have been with us for over 30 years- our very first commercial customer in 1978, Caltex (now Engen Petroleum Zimbabwe) is still with us!

We thank you and all our staff for supporting us over the last 40 years and assure you of our best service and attention at all times.

Richard Robinson



And the winner is.....

Guard-Alert was declared one of the top winners in the Outstanding Security Company category at the Megafest National Business awards of 2016. The award was given after an intensive judgement process was carried out as well as extensive consultations. The Megafest National Business awards honours companies who have contributed to the economic development of Zimbabwe and have made strides in projecting a positive picture of the country.



Guard dogs – Enhancing premises security

We have all heard the expression, "man's best friend" with reference to dogs. Well the same is true when it comes to security as dogs as these four-legged creatures can truly enhance security at premises.

Guard-dogs provide additional reinforcement to security guards who are carrying out their day to day duties. They can boost security where the premises are quite big and cannot be adequately covered by the guards on duty. In addition, the perimeter wall at the premises might not adequately deter would be intruders and might allow easy access by scaling over the top. The premises might also hold high value goods inside which make it necessary to have early detection when the dogs senses that there is an intruder on site and barks to warn the guard on duty. The guard dog will also act as a deterrent to would be thieves as the intruder will fear being attacked.

Guard-dogs are taken through a regime of instruction so that they are prepared for all potentially volatile situations. Aggression and obedience training form part of the curriculum. The training which is carried out at Sectra, the Guard-Alert Group training division, takes a total of 21 days.

For optimum security, the guard at the premises should be a trained dog handler. Training for dog handling is also for 21 days. The training undertaken will cover all aspects of how to handle the dog professionally and keep the dog under control. In addition to feeding the dog, the dog handler also carries out regular assessments on the general well being of the dog.

Well trained dogs are not deterred by aggressive behavior from a thief such as the use of loud noises and wild gestures. The dog will react to the aggressor through incessant barking or attacking the intruder thus ensuring premises are well protected. The early detection through the enhanced sense of smell of dogs ensures that thieves are detected early, and no break in will take place as the barking will alert the guard on duty of the approach of thieves. If the dog is at a house, the barking will also warn the house-owners that something is amiss at their premises and they will either be able to investigate or press the panic button to call for assistance from the Rapid Response team.



**Want to go in-house?
Consider this...**

There is a point in time when companies might consider moving to in-house security especially when most are considering where to make their next cost-cutting move. Though this might be seen to be a prudent move, professional security companies know that there are costs to having internal security and would like a number of issues considered before disengaging contract guards.

A professional distance should be maintained between security personnel and the staff at the premises being guarded. When internal guards are used, this can be compromised as the guards might get too friendly with the staff as they feel they are part of the workforce. This will definitely compromise security at the premises as some of the guards might not be very vigilant when carrying out their duties due to over familiarity.

If a company hires contract guards, they have the option to rotate guards should they feel that they are not performing optimally or even that the guards are now becoming over familiar. There is greater room for flexibility and room for movement than if the company is using internal guards. There is also a pool of guards to choose from if the guard should fall sick, or be absent from work for any reason. With the contract guards, it will simply be a matter of re-arranging schedules and re-assigning guards to ensure coverage of the contract.

The administration of internal guards can be time consuming and will not allow the company to focus on its core business. Consequently, this might not be done well as resources do not permit, leading to compromised security at the premises. Additionally, there is need for experienced personnel to administer the guards, ensure an effective rotation system and supervision of the guards, all greatly involving tasks.

Vetting of guards is also important when recruiting guards to check for previous employment records and any criminal history. This is done professionally and efficiently by established security companies who will carry out the task at no extra cost to the company.

The next time your company starts to consider recruiting internal guards, you will be able to make an informed choice. It pays to do the right thing the first time.



Electric fencing solutions

Electric fences were initially developed to keep out animals. However, the fencing is now being installed at residential and commercial premises to help enhance security at the perimeter of the premises. Below is some information which will be useful in your choice of this electronic security solution.

Q. Name two fence applications
A. There are wall top fencing applications, ie on top of a security wall and there are also free standing fences

Q. How does an electric fence work
A. The electric fence energizer converts the mains or battery power into a high voltage pulse which releases a pulse onto the insulated

fence line every few seconds. A person or animal touching the fence will complete an electric circuit and conduct the pulse causing a slight electric shock.

Q. Is the electric shock deadly
A. Not at all. When an animal or human being gets an electric shock, the pain does not cause physical harm- it just causes a level of discomfort which acts as a deterrent to would be intruders

Q. Why would I choose to install an electric fence around my premises
A. There are several reasons why one would install an electric fence around their premises and these include:

Cost- electric fences require less material than conventional fences
Keeps intruders off the premises if it is properly maintained
There is visual protection as would be intruders who see the fence together with the warning sign would not want to enter such premises

Q. Can the electric fence be connected to an alarm
A. Yes it can. The electric fence can be connected to an existing alarm system which can in turn be connected to the Rapid Response service. The alarm will go off if the fence is interfered with in any way, alerting the premises owner.

Contact Guard-Alert Electronics on 669426/7 or sales@gae.co.zw for more information



Reports were received of a couple being attacked in their drive-way, the husband was stabbed several times while the wife was forced to go and unlock their home safe. They reported a couple of hundred dollars was stolen. It is always prudent that one does not openly talk about the safe in the home as it is obvious that the thieves knew about the safe and its contents. In addition, though one might have trusted domestics, the harsh economic times are always a temptation therefore it is necessary not to trust anyone.

A warning to motorists driving down Churchill at the t-junction with College Road. There have been a number of smash at grabs as cars wait for the robots to turn green. The thieves are very hard to catch as they sprint away from the robots into the gaps in the University of Zimbabwe

perimeter wall- where they disappear into the grounds.

A warning to all motorists when driving along roads that have a crop of maize growing close to the road. Incidents have been reported on Bishop Gaul Road at the "Y" intersection when you slow down at the give way sign, thieves are smashing windows and grabbing whatever is available. It is advisable to leave nothing in view or on the seat ... have it all out of sight and preferably in the boot of the vehicle. It's a frightening experience to all concerned. The crops are now at a height that detection of persons is almost impossible so be VIGILANT and AWARE at all times. (Courtesy- Anti Hijack Trust)

A reminder once again for readers not to leave valuables in their cars. It appears as if thieves have a sixth sense that there are valuables left in the car, even if the occupant tries their best to cover them with a blanket or slip them underneath their seat. A parent left her handbag and laptop for "just a few moments" to go and collect their child from the school grounds. They came back and their window had been smashed and all their valuables stolen.

Management profile



It is important that our clients know who they have to deal with on a day to day basis should the need arise. This issue focuses on Security Officer Gift Ushe, who is the Operations Officer for Harare North guarding operations.

Mr Ushe has been with Guard-Alert security for 23 years having joined the company in 1994. He joined the company in 1994 as a lance corporal and was promoted through the ranks over the years to his position of Operations Officer in charge of operations in Harare North area. Mr Ushe was voted worker of the month in November 2016 attesting to his impeccable work ethic. Mr Ushe holds certificates in Basic Security guard course, Supervisors course and Security Officers course.

What our customers say

The public also notices when our guards make a difference during the execution of their duties:

RE: GUARD 36163 NYASHA CHIKOZHO
I have worked with the above named since 1 September 2015. Mr Chikozho is a hardworking, co-operative and very trustworthy officer. He is very punctual for duty and he does his work diligently. He has assisted this school in maintaining discipline. He is a no-nonsense man. When he is on duty there is discipline in the school. He ensures that students are punctual, properly dressed and putting on correct uniform. He works hand in hand with the school administration to ensure there is order in the school. When we have functions at the school he is always there to ensure there is security in the school. I strongly recommend that he is promoted to the next rank.
Yours faithfully

RPE Mashanga
Headmaster

Good Job



Guard-Alert guards standing firm in the line of duty .

Armed guard 34676 Mukapuzi was guarding a broken down heavy transportation vehicle at the 10km peg to Mvuma when two armed robbers surfaced from the bush, they fired a warning shot and ordered the guard to

get into the vehicle. The guard got into the vehicle and the thieves fired another warning shot. The guard now safely in the vehicle returned fire resulting in the robbers fleeing in the darkness. On investigation, the guard found some empty containers and the fuel tank cap open. The thieves had come to siphon off fuel. The guard was highly commended for his bravery in the face of danger.

Security Guard John 3481, stationed at a resort hotel was on his routine patrols when he identified a person loitering near the managers' residences. There had been a spat of house breaking incidences in the area. The security guard apprehended the suspect as he did not have a valid reason for being where he was. The suspect was taken to the local police station for further questioning. Our guard was commended for his observation skills and quick thinking.

Security guard 34676 Chikozho was at duty at a school in Mvuma when he spotted three male students behaving suspiciously. On approaching them he gave chase and the students jumped over the dura wall. Security Guard Chikozho did not give up and also scaled over the wall and caught up with one of the students who he discovered had been smoking. The student was questioned extensively, resulting in him giving up the names of the other three students. The students were brought to the headmaster and punishment was meted out to them. Our guard was commended for his quick action.

Security guard W1414 Sharayi observed and arrested a cleaning contract employee for theft of soft drinks from a holding container. Sharayi noticed the suspicious behaviour of the cleaner and confronted him. On carrying out a body search, the worker was found with four bottles of soft drinks concealed in his trousers. The matter was reported to management and the was dealt with internally. The guard was commended for his good observation skills.

Laughter 

Laughter- the best medicine

At an art gallery, a woman and her ten-year-old son were having a tough time choosing between one of my paintings and another artist's work. They finally went with mine.

"I guess you decided you prefer an autumn scene to a floral," I said. "No," said the boy. "Your painting's wider, so it'll cover three holes in our wall."

Courtesy- Reader's Digest



Be inspired

Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it.

Steve Jobs



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Help us keep your account up-to-date

We are having difficulties in tracing payment on our bank

statement. In order for us to be able to reconcile our accounts we need the following from you:

1. Put your account reference number on the deposit
2. Please send proof of your payment to accounts@guardalert.co.zw for all Guard-Alert payments and to billing@gae.co.zw for all Guard-Alert Electronics payments .