The Costs of Unnecessary False Alarms

We often talk about the dramatic stories of timely storm warnings that save lives and money for our clients. Equally important is the number of times we prevent the chaos, disruption, and loss of productivity (thus, dollars!) Involved with false alarms.

On April 12, 2009, 11:51am, government meteorologists issued a tornado warning for the Houston area valid until 12:30pm. They believed there was a tornado developing over downtown Houston.

At 11:50 am CDT...National Weather Service Doppler radar indicated a server thunderstorm capable of producing a tornado. This tornado was located near downtown Houston...moving east at 30 mph.

AccuWeather Enterprise Solutions (AES) had multiple clients in the area warned by   government officials. Based on our technology, we notified them there was no threat. No tornado occurred.

NWS Warning notification from AES:
AccuWeather Enterprise Solutions has NOT issued a warning this time for your facility in Harris County, TX and is not expecting this tornado to affect your facility in the next 30 minutes. Below is a courtesy copy of the NWS Warning for your convenience.

For 2009 through April 16, Houston governmental weather officials have issued 9 tornado warnings. Only one tornado occurred. Suppose your fire alarm system falsely sounded eight times? Would you evacuate the 9th?

In 2008, the government's Houston office issued 19 tornado warnings resulting in a single tornado -- a false alarm rate of 95%. In spite of a 95% false alarm rate, two tornadoes occurred in the Houston area without any government warning.

You would never accept this level of performance from a fire or intrusion alarm system. Site-specific weather warnings and risk mitigation systems from AES save money, productivity and, when there is a genuine hazard, we help you save lives.

Contact us today at: 814.235.8600 or salesmail@accuweather.com
Visit us at: AccuWeather.com/EnterpriseSolutions.