

**STATUS OF NEW STATE HOUSE SECURITY/EMERGENCY/FIRE SYSTEMS**  
JANUARY 22, 2015

**Security Cameras:**

A new security camera CAT 6 wiring backbone has been run to a series of points within the State House. Minimal wiring work remains and will be completed by the end of January. This will provide the capability for the installation of discrete security cameras if this is ultimately desired.

**Duress & Emergency Medical Alarm System:**

The antiquated panic alarm systems have been removed and replaced with a new duress and emergency medical alarm system.

- A duress (security) alarm remote device has been assigned to each room within the building where a previous panic alarm button had been assigned. These are typically attached with Velcro in a concealed location to be activated by committee members or staff if a security threat is underway. Each duress alarm remote device has two buttons that need to be pressed simultaneously to send a signal to the Capital Police. The two (recessed) buttons reduce the possibility of accidental activation. If a security threat is underway, the two buttons shall be pressed, which in turn transmits a silent signal to the controller in the Capital Police office. The controller will display an alpha-numeric message and sound a local notification (within the Capital Police office) that indicates a security emergency in the specific room or space where the alarm has been raised. In addition, the controller transmits the same message to the police via their two-way portable radios and a text message to their cellular smartphones and hand radios. Although not currently in place, the duress system is Internet protocol-based and has the ability to transmit a signal to other locations and individuals if desired.
- A medical emergency button has also been assigned to locations throughout the building. These are typically wall-mounted within each meeting room, near the room exit door. The medical emergency system is a new component of the duress alarm system and is intentionally placed in a visible location and has a single button for activation. Pressing the respective button will transmit a medical emergency message to the Capital Police similar to the duress signal and this will in turn provide an alert notification at the controller, police radios and police smartphones.
- The system has been designed with two distinct alarm activation devices to differentiate the type of emergency and allow the Capital Police to respond appropriately. An important feature of the new system is the ability to provide the police, wherever they are, with an exact location and type of alarm, which was not a capability with the older system. The system also has expansion capability if additional alarm input devices are required in the future.

**Please Note:** A duress/emergency wireless receiver/repeater has been installed in 1 Baldwin, but the actual assignment of the duress and emergency buttons has been postponed until further directions are given.

### Call Light System:

The current call light (red/green light) system within the State House has a speaker system that allows for the sounding of the chimes to announce House and Senate activities.

- This limited speaker system is still used by the Capital Police to dial in and make emergency announcements (the speaker is concealed within the four square box behind the call lights). Members have complained that the announcements are hard to hear and muffled due to the limits of the system. This call light system has now been installed on each floor of Joint Fiscal at 1 Baldwin St.

The new fire annunciator strobe alarm system is greatly improved from the antiquated system. It allows for emergency annunciation to be transmitted from secured handsets to the building-wide intercom system located within the fire horn/strobe annunciators. There are five handset locations: one in the Sergeant-of-Arms office, the Capital Police office, by the back entry door to the cafeteria elevator lobby, another in the main fire alarm panel room, and the last located within the crow's nest. The current alarm annunciation has been pre-programmed with standard alarm audible notifications such as "A Fire is detected, please leave the building". The Capital Police currently hold the keys to override the annunciator to make a more specific announcement. The Capital Police have (9) keys and BGS Maintenance Electricians have (6) keys to access the handset intercoms.

- Home Security out of Stowe is our monitoring service for the fire alarm system and is first to receive the alarm and then they are responsible for contacting emergency services.

Capital Police are continuing procedures in place for dispatching/notification of local and State agencies during a State House emergency until legislative approval changes procedure. Note that the newly installed duress/medical and fire alarm systems are significantly more advanced than the prior antiquated systems, allowing for broader range and methods of communicating emergencies. The protocol that was written by the Capital Police hasn't been revised until legislative approval is granted. To view the Capital Police Operation Plan, go to:

- <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/All-Staff-and-Office-Docs/Staff-and-Offices-PDFs/Capitol-Police/Operation-plan-state-House.pdf>