

Making a Difference...Why We Do What We Do

Monitored protection helps save New Mexico family

By Bob Tucker, Chief Storyteller, ADT

It was supposed to be an easy replacement of a fireplace gas pipe when a plumber came to the Albuquerque home of Jim and Nancy Schmitt in early February. He did the job, lit a test fire, and then departed. Unfortunately, the gas was left on with the fireplace flue closed.

Later that evening, the home’s carbon monoxide detector activated, alerting the Schmitt’s and sending a signal to their alarm company’s monitoring center several hundred miles away in Texas. That’s where Dominique Sessions, a professionally- trained dispatcher called the home and advised the Schmitt’s to go outside while she called local authorities.

“We watched as responders from Albuquerque Fire Rescue arrived and went into our house,” said Jim Schmitt. “They came out a short time later and said their portable meter had measured over 40 parts per million of carbon monoxide. It was scary.”



Nancy and Jim Schmitt

The firefighters, as well as a representative from the local gas company, spent the next hour helping the Schmitt’s air out the house so they could safely return inside.


The Schmitt’s are thankful they had a professionally installed and monitored security system which helped save not only their lives, but also their two beloved pets.

“A few hours later and we all would’ve been asleep,” said Nancy Schmitt. “The fire chief said that is when carbon monoxide is the most dangerous because you can’t smell, see or taste it and many victims never wake up.”



Dominique Sessions

According to the CDC, nearly 500 Americans die every year of unintentional carbon monoxide and about 20,000 more are poisoned, requiring medical treatment.

The Schmitt’s are relieved they were protected from the ‘silent killer’ and encourage everyone to have a monitored security system in their home. 

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