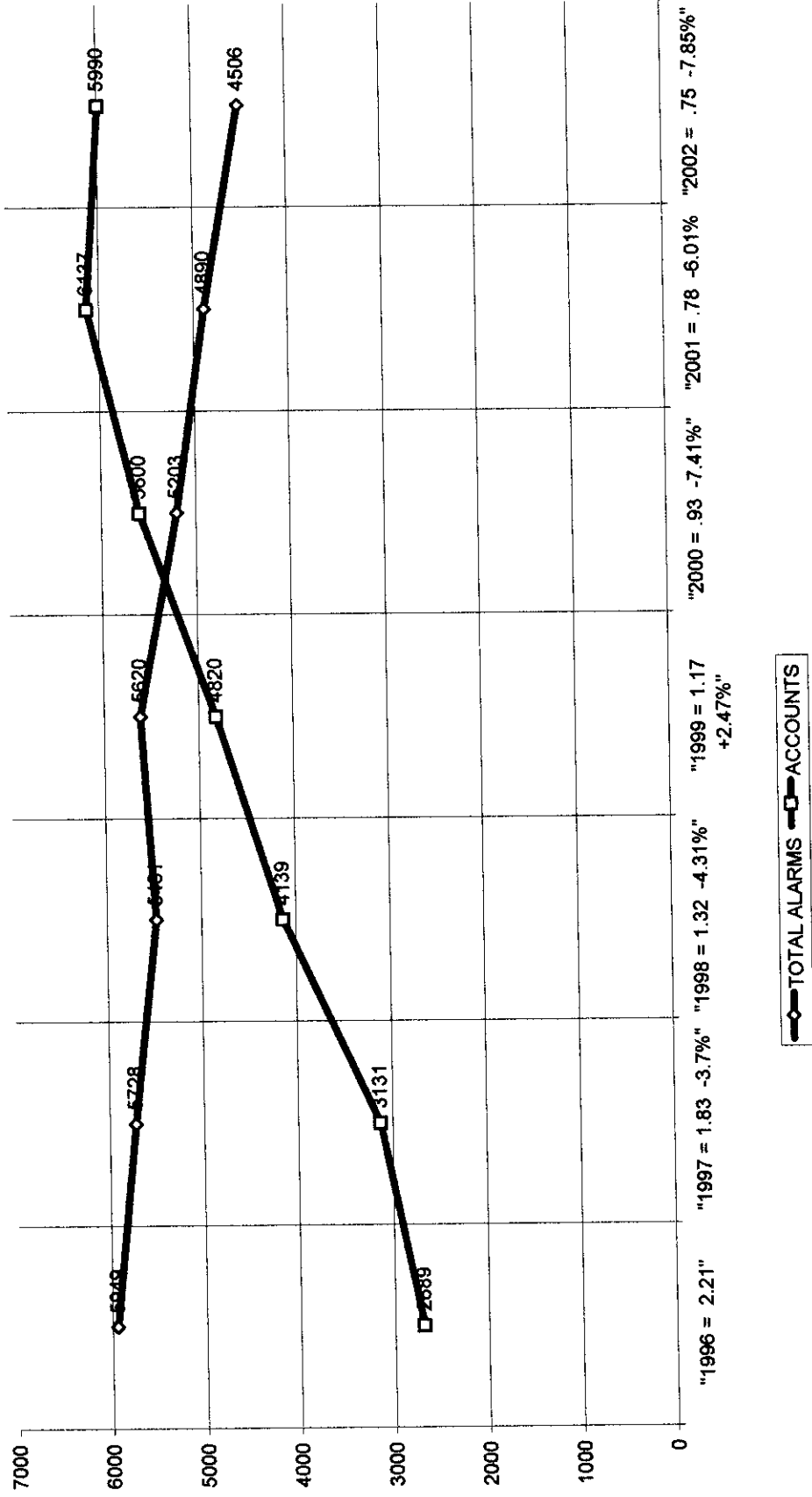


False Burglary Alarms Vs. Accounts, by Year

Overall 1996-2002
 122% increase in accounts, 24% Decrease in alarms



Success of the Salt Lake City Police Department
Verified Response Alarm Program

Press Release Regarding False Alarms

In the United States in 1998, police responded to approximately 38 million alarm activations, at an estimated annual cost of \$1.5 billion. Most of the activations were burglar alarms, which proved to be between 98-99% false. In the United States alone, solving the problem of false alarms would by itself relieve 35,000 officers from providing an essentially private service.

The Salt Lake City Police Department has solved this burden on our department with the Verified Response Alarm Program. The alarm companies are required to verify an automatic alarm signal via an eyewitness before an officer is dispatched. Should the private guard discover an open door or broken window, an officer is dispatched to the scene as a high priority. Officers are no longer responding on alarms caused by cleaning crews, kids, cats, dogs and balloons. Police continue to respond to the human activated alarms such as robbery, panic and duress.

Alarm response decreased dramatically by 90%. We experienced a decrease in high priority calls for service response times. Burglaries decreased during the first year of implementation. Burglaries the second year increased by 3%. An in-depth study of 2001 burglary cases revealed some shoplifting and larceny cases were included in the burglary count. Burglary cases separated from these other cases for 2001 indicated a 1.9% decrease.

This program has been a win-win for our citizens, alarm companies and the police department since it became ordinance in 2000. Citizens are receiving a much faster response to their alarm signal from the private guard companies for an additional \$5.00 per month to their monitoring account. Police officers can now be redirected to actual public safety needs.

Salt Lake City was a winner in the Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem Oriented Policing and the International Chiefs of Police - Webber Seavey Award in 2001 for the Verified Response Program. We are currently a semi-finalist in the "Innovations in American Government" award sponsored by Harvard University.

Las Vegas Metro Police Department began Verified Response in 1991 and also achieved a 90% reduction in alarm responses. False alarms are a national problem for police, with some departments utilizing 25 - 30% of their patrol resources on a call, which are predictably 98 -99% false. Eight other cities currently practice Verified Response, fifty-three cities are moving in this direction, and a national awareness has begun with police departments to shift the burden of false alarms to the industry that created the problem and has the ability to solve it.

Chief Charles F. "Rick" Dinse Salt Lake City Police Department Contact
Information -----

Sgt. Fred Louis
Salt Lake City Police Department
Public Information Office
315 East 200 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Phone 801-799-3441
Pager 801-249-7168
Fax 801-799-3419