

• Daily Leader staff report Liberal Fire Chief Kelly Kirk responded Friday to inquiries his department has received concerning fire alarm systems. “The Liberal Fire Department has received an inquiry from a citizen regarding door-to-door sales calls for residential fire alarm systems,” Kirk noted in a press release. “It is apparent that some miscommunication and misconceptions exist about the way that these systems notify local authorities in the event of an emergency.

“Once installed, these alarm systems are not monitored locally by the Liberal Fire Department. When these residential alarm systems detect smoke or fire, they are designed to transmit the alarm to an offsite monitoring center,” he continued. “This center should be staffed 24/7, and these operators are trained to notify the Liberal/Seward County Emergency Communications Center who, in turn, dispatch local emergency crews.

“The monitoring centers are located outside of Liberal and in some cases outside the State of Kansas,” Kirk snoted. “This is by no means a statement about the capability or effectiveness of these residential alarm systems. We simply wish to clarify that the systems are not monitored by the fire department at the local level.”