GLOSSARY

ACTIVE ARMING: A method of arming a security system that requires the user to physically arm the system by pressing a button on a remote or entering a code on a keypad.

ARM: The act of causing a security system to reach a state in which it will protect the vehicle.

ARMING DELAY: The elapsed time between the moments a security system is told to arm and the moment it is actually armed. This normally applies to systems that are passively armed but can also apply to actively armed systems.

AMPERAGE: Unit of electrical current. Measured in amps.

AUTO RESET: The ability of a security system to automatically reset itself after being triggered.

BACK-UP BATTERY: A separate battery added to the security system as an alternate power supply to serve as a backup in case the vehicle's main battery is disabled. Back-up batteries are typically led-acid gel cell types. These components are most effective when well hidden from detection.

BRAIN: This term refers to the main control unit of a security system or remote start system.

CHANNEL: An output from an alarm or remote start system's remote that can be used to control a certain function such as a power trunk release, garage door opener, or power window roll-up.

CHIRP: The brief output from the siren of a security system to indicate if the system has been armed or disarmed.

CONTROL UNIT: The central processor of an alarm or remote start system. Also known as the "brain".

CURRENT SENSING: The form of a security system trigger input that relies on sensing a change in the power supply of the vehicle. More accurately called voltage sensing, this feature is found on many inexpensive alarms.

DIODE: A two terminal device that allows a voltage/signal to pass in one direction only.

DISARM: The action of placing a security system in an inactive or standby mode.

DOPPLER SENSOR: Another name for a field disturbance sensor, also known as a radar sensor.

DOMELIGHT: Light mounted in the interior of the vehicle that is turned on when a door is opened. Also called a courtesy light.

DOMELIGHT SUPERVISION: The ability of a security or remote start system to turn on the vehicle's dome light when the alarm is disarmed or when the doors are unlocked. This allows the user to check the interior for an intruder before entering the vehicle. The light is turned off after a predetermined amount of time or when the ignition switch is turned on.

EMERGENCY OVERRIDE: Also called valet mode. This allows the vehicle to be disarmed in the case of a lost or damaged remote or other emergency.

ENGINE DISABLE: Prevents the engine from starting when the system is armed. The starter, fuel pump, or ignition may be inhibited.

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EVENT MEMORY: A feature with some security systems that informs the car owner of a theft attempt on the vehicle and which sensor responded to the attempt. This information is given to the user by chirps, LED, and/or parking lights. Some systems use a prerecorded voice.

FUSE: A device designed to provide protection for a given circuit or device by physically opening the circuit. Fuses are rated by their amperage and are designed to blow or open when the current being drawn through it exceeds its rating.

GLASS SENSOR: Detects sound of breaking glass. May pick up sounds of metal on glass and tampering with windows.

HARNESS: Collection of wires that plugs into the alarm or remote start system and connects to wires in the vehicle.

IGNITION CONTROLLED DOORLOCKS: Feature included on most alarm and remote start systems that will locks the doors when the ignition switch is turned on. This is to increase passenger safety.

IMPACT SENSOR: Detects blows and sharp impact to the body of the vehicle. Also known as a shock sensor.

INPUT: Any wire on a security or remote start system designed to accept a signal from some outside source such as the vehicle's wiring. Door trigger, hood trigger, trunk trigger, and sensor trigger, and sensor triggers are all examples of inputs.

LED (Light Emitting Diode): Small light that mounts in car interior and indicates the alarm or remote start's status. Flashes to serve as a theft deterrent.

LIGHT FLASH: Sometimes called parking light flash. A feature on alarm and remote start systems that will flash the vehicle's parking lights when the system is armed, disarmed, or remote started. May also indicate system status on some systems.

MULTI-METER: Tool used to measure voltage, resistance, and resistance.

OHM: Unit of measurement for electrical resistance.

OUTPUT: Any wire on a security or remote start system designed to produce a signal intended to be wired to some outside circuit. Siren wires, parking light flash wires, and door lock wires are all examples of outputs.

OVERRIDE SWITCH: Also called a valet switch. It is a hidden switch used for emergency override or to put the alarm in a state that will prevent the system from arming. Also used for system programming.

PAGER: A device designed to transmit a signal to the vehicle's owner to alert the owner that the alarm has been triggered.

PAIN GENERATOR: Also known as a piezo siren. Small, high frequency siren that sounds in the vehicle's interior when the alarm is triggered.

PANIC: Ability to sound the siren or horn to draw attention in case of emergency.

PASSIVE ARMING: Ability of an alarm system to arm automatically after a preset time after the ignition is turned off and/or all doors are closed.

PINSWITCH: Spring loaded switch that mounts in the door, trunk, or under the hood. Used to complete a circuit and trigger the alarm if the door, trunk, or hood is opened.

POLARITY: In electricity, refers to the condition of being either positive or negative.

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PROGRAMMABLE FEATURE: The alarm system's ability to have its features changed to suit the user's needs. Some features must be programmed at the time of installation, while others can be made by the owner at will.

RADAR SENSOR: Detects movement within a predetermined area or zone inside or outside the vehicle.

RANGE: Maximum distance from the vehicle at which the remote transmitter will operate.

RELAY: An electromagnetic switch that allows small, relatively low-level signals to operate higher amperage devices. Also used when polarity-reversal is necessary.

REMOTE: A common name for the remote control unit transmitter used with a remote security or remote start system.

RESISTOR: A component designed to have a specific resistance.

SENSOR: A device designed to detect or sense an intrusion or attack upon a vehicle by monitoring such things as motion, vibration, impact, sound, or the presence or a foreign mass.

SIREN: A device designed to produce a loud warning sound when triggered by a security system.

TRIGGER: The common name for any type of stimulus that will cause a security system to produce an alarm. A trigger can come in the form of a pin switch, sensor, or a direct command from a transmitter or accessory button.

TRUNK RELEASE: The ability of a system to open the trunk/hatch by remote control.

ZONE: The specific area of a security system's coverage, or a term used to describe a specific trigger input.

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