

CRM Implementation Workshop Alarms

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Houston, TX

Alarms

- ▶ Any company wants to argue they don't have an "alarm management plan" in SCADA?
 - How many alarms in a given period?
 - What type of alarms and their priority?
- ▶ Hint – A Management Priority Issue
 - Says much about design and approach
 - Alarm feedback loop a must to assure SCADA accurate/efficient
 - Daily, weekly, monthly?
 - Erroneous alarms "goofing" the system
 - CRM Regs says at least monthly
 - Avoid Controller overload

Alarms

- ▶ **Problems with Excessive Alarms**
 - Alarm overload / flooding/ fatigue
 - Reflects very poor design/operational approach
 - Overburden on man / machine
 - Training operators to ignore “real” alarms?
- ▶ **Focus on ease of alarm presentation & priority by type**
 - Presentation on SCADA very important
 - Limit potential to deactivate or play with certain safety critical alarms

Alarms

- ▶ Regulations should
 - Provide verification of management review
 - Permit audit trail by regulators
 - Retain records for fixed period
- ▶ Also don't overwork this issue
 - One of the first areas investigators will check
 - Highly auditable after event
- ▶ Major Alarm issues simple to address
 - Don't oversell delay in reprogramming SCADA
 - Most may already be addressing prudently