

GARAGE DOOR AND GATE ACCESS STORIES IN THE MEDIA

BBB alerts homeowners to garage door repair scams

Source: Better Business Bureau, "BBB Scam Alert: Garage door repair scams," www.BBB.org, Oct. 6, 2023.

The above Better Business Bureau (BBB) press release is noteworthy because it highlights garage door repairs scams. It was most likely prompted by the results of the BBB Scam Tracker on their website.

The BBB Scam Tracker results indicated that there were "numerous reports of unscrupulous emergency garage door repair companies who take advantage of homeowners needing repair services."

The announcement outlines warning signs and tips to avoid garage door repair scams and helps minimize the likelihood of homeowners being ripped off. According to the BBB website, as of February 2024, the BBB Scam Tracker has helped consumers avoid losing around \$21 million to scammers.

Editor's note: Consider sharing this BBB press release on your company sites, and encourage any homeowners who have been scammed or who think they may be targeted by a scam to report it using the BBB Scam Tracker on the BBB website: <https://www.bbb.org/scamtracker>.

The BBB Scam Tracker is a free tool that anyone can use to report suspected scams. Users can click on an "I was scammed." button to report a scam and warn others or the "I think I'm being targeted by a scam." button to search their database to see if a similar scam has been reported.

"THE BBB SCAM TRACKER HAS HELPED CONSUMERS AVOID LOSING AROUND \$21 MILLION TO SCAMMERS."

Felony charges for former garage door company owner

Source: Kevin Schuster, "Former garage door company owner accused of defrauding customers of \$29,000." CBS6 New WRGB Albany News. Jan. 31, 2024.

William Gutowski, the former owner of Amsterdam Overhead Door Company in New York, was accused of taking deposits from customers, agreeing to install their garage doors, and never completing the work.

The Amsterdam Police Department reported that Gutowski accepted roughly \$29,000 in deposits from customers between April 2023 and

"FORMER GARAGE DOOR COMPANY OWNER ACCUSED OF DEFRAUDING CUSTOMERS"

November 2023, noting that a total of "seven victims came forward with complaints."

The article states that Gutowski was charged with third and fourth-degree grand larceny, first-degree scheme to defraud, and petit larceny, and is expected to face more charges.



Gate safety regulations gain momentum with new Assembly Bill 2149

Source: Damon Connolly (Assemblymember, District 12), "Connolly strengthens gate safety regulations in response to child fatality" press release, <https://a12.asmdc.org>. Feb. 6, 2024.

On Feb. 6, 2024, Assemblymember Damon Connolly (D-San Rafael) introduced Assembly Bill 2149, also known as Alex's Law, to the California legislation. The tragedy of Alex Quanbeck's death from a manual gate accident in December 2019 serves as the impetus behind the new legislation.

Connolly said that "Strengthening gate safety measures addresses preventable tragedies by ensuring that if a gate's structure fails there will be additional safety measures protecting children from being crushed."

Alex's father, Eric Quanbeck, said that the bill is scheduled to be assigned to a subcommittee on March 8. Based on this timeline, he is hopeful that Alex's Law will pass in 2024.

Alex's Law was drafted with the support and collaboration of the American Fence Association (AFA). AFA President Michael Reed said that the organization continues to work closely with the Quanbeck family on "industry initiatives that increase awareness, educate communities, and raise standards to eliminate gate-related injuries and deaths."

Quanbeck participated at AFA

Fencetech in Nashville, Tenn., hosting a session entitled "Introduction to the Hummingbird Alliance and the mission to gate safety." The Hummingbird Alliance, a nonprofit organization created in Alex's honor, also sponsored an education scholarship at the AFA brunch.

Quanbeck said, "We are very grateful for the AFA's continued leadership on gate safety awareness and education."

Editor's note: You may recall that D+AS featured a gate accident story in our winter 2023 Clippings section, which included updates on the status of the gate regulations presented by Quanbeck and Connolly. The new bill represents another step toward getting the legislation passed, at least in California. We will continue to follow the progress of Alex's Law.

THE NEW BILL REPRESENTS ANOTHER STEP TOWARD GETTING THE LEGISLATION PASSED

The bill aims to improve safety regulations for any automatic vehicular gate, manual vehicular gate, or any gate that is greater than 48" by 84". Assemblymember

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