

Clippings are brief summaries of recent news articles in the consumer media. These stories offer a peek at how garage door companies and products are being reported to the public.

California bill would mandate battery backups for all GDOs

Source: “Dodd introduces garage-door safety bill,” *Davis Enterprise* (Davis, Calif.), Feb. 2, 2018; and more than seven other California news sources.

California State Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, has introduced a bill (SB 969) that would require newly sold or installed garage door openers to include a battery backup.

The bill comes in the wake of the October 2017 wildfires that cause power outages and during which some victims died, unable to open their garage doors to flee the flames. “Ensuring we have battery backups for garage doors is a small step that can literally save lives,” said Dodd.

Some elderly victims were reportedly unable to use the emergency disconnect and/or lift their garage door manually. During one of the fires, Dodd himself faced this situation and needed help to open his “heavy wooden garage door.” He also said that one of his neighbors drove through his garage door because he couldn’t open the door.

Editor’s note: While such a bill, if passed, would certainly increase sales for door dealers, the proposal requires more investigation—by lawmakers and by the industry.

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Is “garage door diving” a thing?

Source: Lesley Marin, “‘Door diving’ leaves garage doors smashed in, homeowners with pricey repair,” *KTNV-TV* (Las Vegas, Nev.), Jan. 5, 2018.

Several residents of the Silverado Ranch area of Las Vegas found themselves victims of “door diving,” a vandalism practice that leaves garage doors smashed in.

“All of a sudden I hear a big huge boom and the whole house shakes,” said one victim. The damage was so bad, she couldn’t open the garage door, leaving her car stuck inside.

Neighbors believe the damage was caused by teens slamming their bodies into the door as a prank. The repair bill was estimated at \$1,000.

Editor’s note: Here’s another reason to urge your customers to buy a better door.

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Chamberlain sues Nortek for patent infringement

Source: Press release, “Chamberlain Group files patent infringement lawsuit against Nortek Security & Control,” *www.globenewswire.com*, Dec. 4, 2017.

This new lawsuit from Chamberlain alleges infringement of three patents for inventions that improve safety and energy-efficient operation of garage door and gate operators. The complaint was filed Nov. 30, 2017, in United States District Court in San Diego, Calif.

Nortek produces the Linear and Linear Pro Access lines of door and gate operators.

Editor’s note: These lawsuits can take a long time to resolve—and a lot of money. It emphasizes the importance and value of the hidden guts and software in today’s operators.

Garage doors made by a 3-D printer?

Source: Trey Barrineau, “Company to mass-produce windows with 3-D printer,” *Door & Window Market Magazine*, Jan. 23, 2018.

NorDan, a Swedish door and window manufacturer, will soon begin producing window products with a 3-D printer. Using technology from BLB Industries, NorDan seeks to make windows up to 1.5m x 2.5m.

NorDan’s goal is to mass-produce products for the consumer market faster and cheaper. Recently, 3-D printing has been used to help build small houses.

Editor’s note: Manufacturers take note. This emerging technology is only gaining steam. If it works for windows, are garage door sections next?

UK: Smart door handle sanitizes hands

Source: “Smart door handle that sanitises hands launched to help fight against superbugs,” *Door Industry Journal*, Jan. 9, 2018.

The PullClean door handle reportedly sanitizes your hands and provides feedback on usage through a monitoring system. The product was invented by two Oxford students who have created Altitude Medical UK.

A tube-shaped cartridge is placed in the center of a hollow door handle, which releases a small amount of sanitizer when a button is pressed. Each handle also records how many times that handle was used and how much sanitizer is left in the handle.

The handle was developed to reduce the spread of viruses and infections, particularly in hospitals, schools, and other public locations including Hilton and Marriott hotels. The product is on exhibit at the Science Museum in London, and a prototype is on trial at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in the U.S.

Editor’s note: I’m not sure this would be as useful on garage doors or GDO remotes, but we are wise to pay attention to innovations in the pedestrian door industry.