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	Application Number	Not Assigned
	Filing Date	May 30, 2008
	First Named Inventor	Grim et al.
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Title (Required)	System and Method for Detecting and Broadcasting a Critical Event	

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<p>_____ Theodore D. Fay, III Printed or Typed Name</p>	<p>_____ 972-385-8777 Telephone Number</p>
<p>_____ Attorney for Applicants Title</p>	<p>_____ 48,504 Registration Number, if applicable</p>

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SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DETECTING AND BROADCASTING A CRITICAL EVENT

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is related to United States application serial number 11/968,772 filed January 3, 2008, and entitled “Method and Apparatus For Digital Life Recording And Playback”, incorporated by reference herein for all purposes.

BACKGROUND

1. Field of the Invention:

[0002] The present invention relates generally to personal security systems and, more specifically, to a system and method for detecting and signaling the existence of a critical event.

2. Description of the Related Art:

[0003] When a critical event occurs, there may frequently be a delay in summoning assistance or dispatching emergency personnel or other equipment to the area of the emergency. Delays may be attributed to various problems. For example, a delay may be caused by an inability to reach emergency personnel by a standard communication method, such as a telephone. A delay may also be caused by uncertainty regarding whether an event should be treated as an emergency. Additionally, a delay may be caused by confusion or other concerns regarding the appropriate personnel or equipment to dispatch for a particular emergency. Delays in response may compromise or jeopardize the security, safety or health of individual persons or the public-at-large. A related application serial number 11/968,772, filed January 3, 2008, entitled “Method and Apparatus For Digital Life Recording And Playback”, discloses a networked system that continually senses and captures information associated with all aspects of a person’s daily activities and life. The captured information may include the occurrence of a critical event or other emergency that requires prompt reporting and quick action. Reducing the

Docket No. END920070437US1

response time when an emergency or other critical event occurs would improve security, provide a valuable public service and increase individual and public safety.

Docket No. END920070437US1

BRIEF SUMMARY

[0004] This disclosure describes a personal safety alert system that broadcasts the occurrence of a critical event or other emergency situation so that public safety personnel or other assistance may be notified quickly.

[0005] According to one disclosed class of innovative embodiments, there is provided a computer-implemented method of reporting a critical event comprises acquiring input data that may comprise a stream of digitized signature data. The input data is continuously analyzed to determine an event context. A priority of the determined event context is assessed and responsive to the priority assessment, a reporting response is generated.

[0006] According to another disclosed class of innovative embodiments, there is disclosed a system comprising a plurality of integrated subsystems configurable for processing sensory data. The system comprises an analysis subsystem that determines an event context based on a glossary comprising signature data and a reporting subsystem communicatively coupled to the analysis subsystem that receives the events determined by the analysis subsystem.

[0007] According to another disclosed class of innovative embodiments, there is disclosed a system for broadcasting a critical alert. The system comprises an external interface, a receiving mechanism that logs a receipt of an alert, a prioritizing mechanism that grades the urgency of the received alert based on a configuration setting and a distributing mechanism that broadcasts an alarm responsive to grading the urgency of the received alert.

[0008] The embodiments of the disclosure provide an advantage of minimizing the response time during an emergency by automatically sending alerts or alarms to designated emergency personnel or to a public safety sub-system that disseminates the alert or alarm.

[0009] The embodiments of the disclosure also provide an advantage of automatically determining whether or not an event should be categorized as requiring an emergency response and a broadcast alert.

Docket No. END920070437US1

[0010] The embodiments of the disclosure also provide an advantage of providing a personal protection system that provides an advance warning of impending potentially negative events.

[0011] These and other advantages will be more clearly understood from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings and claims.

Docket No. END920070437US1

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