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	Application Number	Not Assigned
	Filing Date	May 30, 2008
	First Named Inventor	Grim et al.
	Attorney Docket Number	END920070437US1
Title (Required)	System and Method for Detecting and Broadcasting a Critical Event	

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/Theodore D. Fay, III/	May 30, 2008
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Theodore D. Fay, III	972-385-8777
Printed or Typed Name	Telephone Number
Attorney for Applicants	48,504
Title	Registration Number, if applicable

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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

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

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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.

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[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.

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