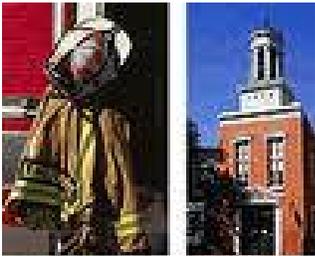




CWSI Protects Firefighters in Seven Fire Stations in the City of Alexandria

The Alexandria Fire Department holds a special place in the City of Alexandria's history. Founded in 1774, it counts George Washington among its early members. A network of nine stations, several historic, service the entire city, an area of 15 square miles.



What the Fire Departments' stations lacked was any reliable fire protection for the firemen; most of the stations were only equipped with single-station smoke alarms, but most with no fire alarm or sprinkler systems. Even though most had fuel burning appliances and bunk rooms over the apparatus bays, many did not have carbon monoxide detection. Realizing they had an immediate need, the Fire Department tasked Maurice Jones, supervisor of the Fire Protection Systems, Fire Prevention and Life Safety Unit, to come up with a solution.



Dealing with limited funds and knowing that several of the older fire stations were scheduled to be replaced in the near future, Mr. Jones researched various system options. As the majority of the expense to retrofit these stations resulted from labor and material cost, his investigation concluded that a Commercial Wireless Fire Alarm System would be the best option and chose the CWSI wireless system, which provided both a cost effective and code compliant solution.



Once the CWSI system was chosen, the Fire Department reached out to CWSI's primary distributor for the Alexandria market, Alarm Tech Solutions and several meetings were held to finalize a scope for the project. Marty Smith, President and CEO of Alarm Tech Solutions, and his team then conducted a full site survey of each station while the company's project engineering coordinators created modern CAD drawings from the original hand-drawn layouts. With surveys and drawings complete, Alarm Tech Solutions was able to engineer code-compliant CWSI wireless systems for each of the stations.

Final submittal documents and shop drawings were presented to the City's Code Administration Department. Approved without a single comment, and with permits in hand Alarm Tech began the installations. All of the

systems were fully installed and operational in a matter of weeks . far more expedient than would have been possible with a traditional hard-wired system.



As a pilot project to prove reliability and functionality, almost three years before the project received full funding, CWSI and Alarm Tech Solutions installed a system in an apparatus bay to demonstrate the product's capabilities in that environment, which worked flawlessly. As a result the seven stations were given the go ahead to install complete CWSI systems.

Each station was designed with wireless smoke detectors containing integral sounders throughout the common areas, bunk rooms, and apparatus bays. Additionally, wireless carbon monoxide detectors, also equipped with sounders, were installed to protect the stations staff from CO poisoning. Wireless manual stations were installed as required by code; emergency generators, sprinkler water flow switches, sprinkler control valve tamper switches and kitchen hood suppression systems were monitored using wireless monitor modules. For a fraction of the cost of a hard-wired system, the City of Alexandria Fire Department was able to install code-compliant CWSI systems throughout their stations.

The seven fire stations project in the City of Alexandria demonstrates that CWSI systems are a viable option to a hard-wired solution, one that is code compliant, cost effective, and reliable. After all, what better recommendation is there than a Fire Department trusting the CWSI system to protect their own?



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