

ReliableReport

An informative publication for our friends.

June, 1999

Reliable Fire Equipment Acquires Total Fire Protection Systems, Inc.

In a transaction completed April 30, 1999, Total Fire Protection Systems, Inc. of Roselle, Illinois became part of the Reliable Fire Equipment team. This acquisition brings 20 years of experience in the sales and service of fire suppression systems which continues to enhance Reliable's growth in the Chicagoland market.

Jack Lamberg is the founder of Total Fire Protection Systems, Inc. Along with Jack, Total's sales force and technicians are a welcome addition to better serve both Total Fire's and Reliable Fire's customers.

Open House and Bar-B-Que (see page 3)

A Summertime Tradition

Live fire training in the summer months has been a Reliable tradition and an OSHA requirement. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has mandated that if you are going to provide portable fire extinguishers and expect employees to use them, you must also provide them with training; as per CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Total 29, Part 1910 (O.S.H.A.) Section 157, Paragraphs g.1 & g.2, which states:

"Where the employer has provided portable fire extinguishers for employee use in the workplace, the employer shall also provide an educational program to familiarize employees with the general principals of fire extinguisher use and the hazards involved with incipient stage fire fighting."

"The employer shall provide the education required in paragraph (g)(1) of this section upon initial employment and at least annually thereafter."

Reliable Fire Equipment Company provides important Fire Safety Training Demonstration Programs for industry, commerce and institutions. Each program is designed to deal directly with the

inherent fire hazards to properties and people. The training is designed to provide for "greater safety" and take into account - life safety practices; recognition of specific types of fire; the effects of proper and improper use of fire extinguishers, etc.

Call your Reliable Fire Sales Representative to schedule fire training. Each session is customized to fit your needs. There are two types of training available; "live" fire performed outside (weather permitting) and the virtual reality fire simulator. Both sessions include a video "Fighting Fire with Portable Fire Extinguishers", a classroom session explaining different types of fires and the proper extinguisher to use. Each participant receives a pamphlet recapping the training session and a Fire Training Certificate.

Highlights

- 2 Smoke Detectors
- 3 Open House
- 4 CO Detector Recall

Where's The Smoke Detector?

Arnold Arredondo

In the past 10 years there has been major advances in smoke detector technology. In the late 80's and early 90's the trend was to use smoke detectors with the least sensitive setting possible. Both conventional, addressable and early version intelligent devices were prone to alarms caused by back pressure, humidity, direct air flow, insects, airborne dust particles, static discharge, RF, and many other environmental conditions.

During this era, the sprinkler industry introduced and was aggressively marketing their "Fast Response" sprinkler head. Though it was not marketed as a life safety device, it did make some industries think twice about Fast Response Sprinkler Heads over smoke detectors. I remember an NFPA meeting in Miami where the sprinkler industry was lobbying to eliminate smoke detectors in patient rooms if fast response sprinkler heads were used. The outcome of the vote was in favor of alarm and detection. If it were not for the majority vote, less smoke detectors would be in use today.

I also remember during this voting session listening to health care lobbyists explain why they were not in favor of smoke detectors in patient rooms. Their experiences with smoke detectors were more of a nuisance than a benefit.

Ten plus years have gone by and today's smoke detectors have come a long way. Believe it, there are even smoke detectors that will tolerate excessively dirty areas where airborne dust clouds are normally present. In addition, there are spot type smoke detectors that can operate flawlessly with sensitivity

levels of .02 obscuration. This new device is 100 times more sensitive than many common photoelectric smoke detectors.

It is recognized that smoke detectors are used for the purpose of Life Safety and sprinklers are used as a Property Protection system. If this is the case, then why are we seeing more and more codes and engineering specifications eliminate the need of smoke detectors when sprinkler systems are installed?

Smoke detectors have many uses. An early use of a smoke detector was to detect smoke, alarm the control panel and activate the fire alarm audibles to evacuate the building. Smoke detectors are still often the best method of early warning, but smoke detectors also provide us information so that specific control functions can occur when a fire is detected early on.

For example:

←A smoke detector can divert an elevator to an alternate floor in the event smoke is detected on that particular floor.

←A smoke detector can signal a control module to close a normally open door or open a normally locked door.

←A smoke detector can signal an air handler to shut down so not to feed the fire with additional air (oxygen), or signal an air inject to pressurize a stairwell to keep smoke from entering a passage of egress.

←Smoke detectors can be used to signal control equipment to release special extinguishing agents for sophisticated equipment.

←Smoke detectors can be used to vent smoke out of a building.

←Smoke detectors are

used to detect smoke and prevent smoke movement from one fire compartment to the next.

←Smoke detectors tell us that smoke is present when we are not in the immediate area.

←Smoke detectors tell us of a starting fire in remote locations.

←Smoke detectors can pinpoint the area of detection.

←Smoke detectors make us aware of possible hazardous gas-filled areas.

←Smoke detectors offer crucial time to evacuate tenants in a controlled and orderly fashion.

A solid approach to a complete fire protection plan is to provide both types of detection systems. If your building is fully sprinklered, there is no harm to scatter a few smoke detectors in large open areas, corridors, remote rooms or high risk rooms. And remember, you don't necessarily have to place the smoke detectors every 30 feet on centers in a fully sprinklered building.

Keep in mind that building codes provide guidance for the minimum safety requirements. So why do codes allow the elimination of smoke detection when a building is equipped with a sprinkler system? Marketing; I guess the other guy just did a better job in getting his message across.

Give Reliable Fire Equipment a call if you have smoke detector concerns to complete your fire protection needs. If necessary, we can also address your sprinkler needs.

The Reliable Report is an informative newsletter published by Reliable Fire Equipment Company.

If you have any questions or would like additional information on subjects covered, please call 708/597-4600.

June 15, 1999

Open House & Bar-B-Que

Registration/Continental Breakfast 9:30 - 10:00am

Product Show 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Hourly Plant Tours beginning 10:00 am

CO₂ Hydrostatic Testing - CO₂ Refilling - Dry Chemical Refilling

Service Truck Capabilities - CAD Design Presentation

3:00 Tour to include full CO₂ and Inergen Discharge

Raffle Prizes to be held every hour

Grand Prize Given at the end of the 3:00 Tour

Cost to attend: **FREE**

Break-Out Sessions:

- A Halon Alternatives 10:00 am
- B Virtual Reality Fire Extinguisher Training 10:30 am
- C DSI Fire Extinguisher Bar Coding 10:30 am
- D First Aid 11:30 am
- E Lunch 12:00
- F New Technology in Fire Detection 1:00 pm
- G Fire Extinguisher and Fire Hose Maintenance 1:30
- H Virtual Reality Fire Extinguisher Training 2:00

Meet Representatives from:

The Ansul Company
 Kidde
 Potter Roemer
 Imperial Fire Hose

Swift First Aid
 Notifier
 Elkhart Brass
 Dual Lite
 Rolf Jensen & Assoc., Inc.

Survivair
 Fike Protection
 DSI
 Wheelock

Fax your registration to Aimee Herbold at 708-389-1150 by June 4th

Company _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Names _____

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circle the sessions you plan to attend

Dateline - March 16, 1999: Carbon Monoxide Detector Bill 603 Passes Illinois House of Representatives

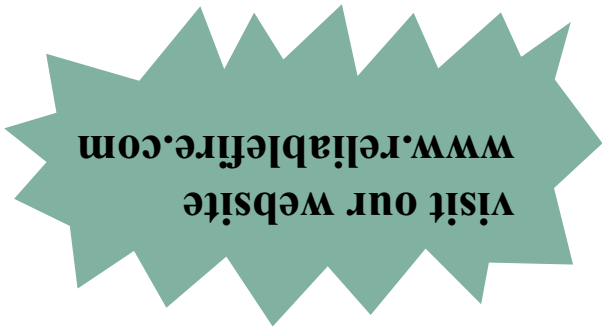
Legislation requiring carbon monoxide detectors in all buildings passed the Illinois House 63-51. Rep. Daniel J. Burke (D-Chicago), the bill's sponsor, said the detectors could protect against the invisible, odorless gas. The legislation would carry fines ranging from \$300 to \$1,000 for failure to comply. The bill has been sent to the Senate and was referred back to the Senate Rules Committee.

Dateline - March 19, 1999: Today Show Announces Recall of Lifesaver and Nighthawk Carbon Monoxide Detectors

A recall has been announced of carbon monoxide detectors, models Nighthawk with 11-8-98 / 3-9-99 on the back of the unit and the Lifesaver Models 9CO-1 and 9CO-1C with 6-1-97 / 1-31-98 on the back of the unit.

Reliable Fire received hundreds of phone calls and e-mails concerning the recall. We directed our clients to Nighthawk's 888-543-3346 phone and their web page recall survey page at www.nhawk.com.

Reliable Fire Equipment is committed to quality service for our clients. We strive to keep you informed on changes and news in the fire/safety industry. We offer several models and types of CO detectors. If you are interested in an employee purchase program for carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, etc., contact your Reliable Fire Sales Representative or Mary Lou Winters, Manager, New Business Development at 708-597-4600 x209.



visit our website
www.reliablefire.com

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