

Simplifying Large Scale Protection

Meydenbauer Center

The City of Bellevue, Washington sits on scenic Lake Washington and is the third largest city in the Seattle metropolitan area. In 2014, Bellevue was named the "second best city to live" by USA Today. With a spike in population and local industry on the rise, Meydenbauer Center, a large convention center located downtown, began a series of renovations and additions that would better enable it to serve the community. An important step in updating the Meydenbauer Center was upgrading the over twenty year old fire protection system. Fire Protection Incorporated (FPI), located in Seattle, was selected as the contractor for the job and promptly began work installing Potter Equipment.

Meydenbauer Center was built in 1993 and named after Bellevue's founder William Meydenbauer. It now has over 54,000 square feet of event space including a 36,000 square foot Center Hall and a 410 seat performing arts theater. Over 300 conventions are hosted by the Center per year, providing the building with over 200,000 guests annually. The conventional zone alarm system installed during construction was outdated, and wasn't up to

code considering the increase in the building's size and traffic. A smart addressable system was needed to properly monitor the building, simplify operations for on-site building security and emergency personnel, and protect its occupants.

Implementation

Initially, FPI faced the challenge of making the fire protection system easy to monitor. In such a large and complex building, monitoring every zone was no simple task. Previously, not all of the zones were able to even be checked during testing. Potter's P400R Analog Addressable Fire Alarm/Releasing Panel was used to cut down the number of necessary zones and convert the Meydenbauer Center over to a fully addressable system, easily monitored through Potter's Facility Management Tool (FMT). The FMT allows security staff to monitor the entire facility and receive real time e-mail updates on every alarm and trouble condition for every zone in the building. The installation went very smoothly. Shaun Olsen, Field Supervisor at FPI said, "Potter products allowed us the ability to easily operate the system without issues during the transition".

Product Highlights



P400R

FACP with preaction, deluge, or clean agent releasing

Single or multi-hazard capability



RA-6500R

160 character LCD display

Communicates using RS-485 connection

Connect up to 31 to each P-Link Circuit



FMT

Remotely view alarm, trouble, and supervisory events

Keypad emulation mode for remote event interaction

Remote annunciators were installed throughout the building to take advantage of a feature known as positive alarm sequence. This allows security personnel 15 seconds to check an area where the system has been activated before alarms and strobes are initiated. In such an

expansive space often occupied by large numbers of people, this is a key feature. Sam Ozturgut of FPI said,

“...making it quicker for staff members to get to a location where they can respond...”

“The problem Meydenbauer faced is they’re a very large facility and the security staff may not be able to get to a panel in time. Thanks to Potter’s addressable system, we can install up to 31 remote annunciators, making it quicker for staff members to get to a location where they can respond. Other systems we’ve worked with only allow up to 8.” Sam continued, “They have thousands of people in the convention center each day. Evacuating them because of a false alarm is costly and dangerous. The positive alarm sequence gives the security staff the chance to investigate an alarm, assess the alarm’s validity, and cancel it if there isn’t an emergency”.

Daily Operation

Today, the staff at Meydenbauer Center has an easier time maintaining and managing their facility thanks to Potter’s P400R fire



protection system. “I worked with our original alarm system for 23 years,” said Lynn Lyscio-Evans, Security Supervisor at Meydenbauer Center. “All the steps have been simplified on the new system. The time it takes

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to operate a zone or point disable and enable is now in seconds not in minutes as before”.

The use of addressable devices has been widely praised by the security team on site thanks to the easy-to-use remote annunciators and Potter’s Facility Management Tool. Lyscio-Evans said, “Recently my security department trained as a group on the new system. Everyone agreed this new system makes working with the panel a lot easier and is much simpler to understand”. As Meydenbauer Center progresses as a multifaceted hub of the city of Bellevue, the security team looks forward to utilizing Potter equipment to protect occupants.

Fire Protection Incorporated

With over 35 years combined experience in the field, our locally owned and operated company provides a wide array of quality fire and security system products and services including fire alarm monitoring. Our steadfast commitment to quality has earned us the respect of home and business owners throughout the community. Our staff of highly trained professionals at FPI will work hard to make sure you’re satisfied with every aspect of your experience with us. Our premium line of burglar alarms, fire alarms, camera systems, intercoms, access control, and home automation systems are the best available.

Potter Electric Signal Company

As an independent company with a focus on tailored customer service, Potter earns its customers’ business with superior innovation and continued dedication to life safety. Designing and manufacturing the best life safety products on the market to protect lives and property drives our corporate vision. We possess the confidence and competence to consistently exceed your needs for every project, every time.

Fire Protection Incorporated

1730 Gibson Road
Everett, WA 98204
425-290-9600

Potter Electric Signal Company, LLC

5757 Phantom Drive, Suite 125
St. Louis, MO 63042
www.pottersignal.com • 800-325-3936

