After a fire causes extensive smoke and water damage in its food repackaging plant, **Amport Foods commits to System Sensor’s FAAST detector for highly reliable detection** that also fits its production requirements.

A two-alarm fire in Amport Foods’ plant in June 2012 prompted management to reassess their fire protection and prevention system. Although the building sustained only minor damage, there was a tremendous amount of smoke and subsequent water damage, which prompted Amport’s search for a more complete smoke detection system throughout its food repackaging facility in Minneapolis.

Amport, a manufacturer and provider of healthy and convenient snack foods, worked with Egan Co., a Brooklyn Park, Minn., integrator of fire and life safety, industrial controls, mechanical and other specialty systems, to find the right solution.

“As is typical in food facilities, they spray everything that’s in there down with water,” says Lee Stover, an account manager with Egan.
“It’s an environment that needs to be kept clean, and to do that, they spray it down with hoses. Typical smoke detectors, be it beam smoke detection or anything with electronics, wouldn’t be an option because they would get wet and be destroyed.”

System Sensor’s Fire Alarm Aspiration Sensing Technology®, or FAAST, was the ideal fit from that aspect alone, says Stover. Egan installed a total of nine FAAST detectors, three in each of Amport’s three production rooms, measuring about 100 by 80 ft., in late 2012. Because the FAAST aspirating smoke detection systems use air sampling tubes in the protected

rooms, Amport is able to completely hose down these areas without damaging the systems.

Amport’s environment, as it turned out, gave Egan another critical reason for choosing FAAST. Stover explains that the food repackaging rooms are not readily accessible: If standard detection were present and needed to be serviced, production would have to be completely shut down until the maintenance was completed.

The impact to the customer would be huge,” says Stover.

Locating the controls outside these rooms, which allows access at any time without disrupting production, made sense to everyone. Although Egan hasn’t worked extensively with aspirating smoke detection, Stover reports that the installation flowed fairly easily once the engineers were brought up to speed on design. “It was straightforward and simple,” says Stover of the FAAST system installation. “It wasn’t overly complicated in how you put it together.”

The FAAST units are integrated with Amport’s NOTIFIER® fire panel, which would notify both

the central monitoring station and Amport’s emergency response team if smoke is detected. More importantly, because FAAST detects extremely low concentrations of smoke long before a full-blown fire can erupt, Amport can put a proactive plan in place to respond to incipient fire conditions and limit downtime due to any future fire events.

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— Lee Stover, Account Manager for Egan Co.